

Detling Parish Council
The Minutes of the Meeting of Detling Parish Council
held on 2nd February 2021 at 7.00pm by Zoom.

***Councillor's present: Baker-Anderson
Bowie
Bryant
Clayton
Coles
Finn***

Also, present: Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Cllr Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd, Louise Watson, Manager Detling Community Shop and Members of the Public.

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bowie.

Public Comments and Observations.

Prior to the start of the meeting the Parish Council will allow Members of the public to speak, subject to submitting a request to the Clerk, prior to the Virtual Meeting. Each speaker will be given a maximum of three minutes each to raise issues with the Parish Council. Public Comment will be for a maximum of 15 minutes. The minute book will be closed during this item.

No public matters were raised.

Presentation of the 2020 Village of the Year Award.

The Chairman informed the meeting that the Detling Community Shop Team had been nominated by residents to receive the 2020 Villager of the Year Award. She stated that Manager, Louise Watson had joined the meeting to receive the Award on behalf of the Shop Team.

She spoke regarding the work of the Shop Volunteers and their dedication to the shop and work in the community during the pandemic. She stated that the Award was being presented in recognition of this.

She presented the Award to Louise Watson, and wished the Community Shop the very best wishes in the National Awards where they were in the top six and congratulated them on receiving the 2020 Villager Award.

Louise Watson thanked the Parish Council for the Award and spoke on behalf of the Community Shop Team.

1. Apologies.

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies were received from from KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast.

2. Declaration of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

No interests were declared.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

There were no Dispensations to be considered.

3. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.

The Minutes for the previous meeting were circulated to all members for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Cllr Bowie to accept the minutes from the previous meeting as a true record. This was seconded by Cllr Clayton and agreed by all present.

The approved minutes were signed and dated by the chairman of the meeting.

4. Matters arising from the previous minutes (not reported elsewhere).

Local Plan – The Clerk confirmed that the Parish Councils response had been submitted to MBC as agreed.

Villager Packs – Cllr Anderson-Baker stated that she was progressing the Villager Packs as agreed.

PC Facebook Page – The Clerk confirmed that this was in the process of being completed and would be up and running by the next PC meeting.

It was agreed that Parish Communication should be placed on the next agenda for further consideration.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

Covid Leaflet – Cllr Coles confirmed that this had been delivered to all houses in the parish as agreed.

Email addresses for parish councillors – The Chairman stated that she and the Clerk would action this.

Princes Way Footpath – Cllr Bowie updated members on the current situation regarding the footpath. She stated that Golding Homes had been contacted about this, however this was being looked into as it was not on their asset register to maintain.

This matter was further discussed by members and it was agreed that the PC should attempt to establish the legal ownership of the pathway and seek advice on what action the PC could legally take regarding the footpath.

Action: Clerk/Chairman to action.

5. Financial Matters:

a. To consider the Financial Statement.

The Financial Statement was approved by Members. (Coles/Bryant).

b. Ratification of the 2021/2022 Precept.

Members ratified the 2021/2022 precept of £39725.60 submitted the MBC with a zero increase to the Band D tax base, as agreed at the December Parish Council Meeting. (Coles/Bryant)

Cllr Clayton spoke regarding the budget allocated for highways and suggested that speed cameras were addressed at a later date as their appeared to be a decrease in the traffic due to the pandemic.

The Clerk confirmed that the budget allocation had been carried forward into the next financial year.

6. Clerks Report.

The Clerks Report was discussed by members.

Parish Defibrillator

The Clerk informed members that an email had been received from a concerned resident regarding an incident whereby it was difficult to access the defibrillator.

This was discussed by members.

The key issue raised was that the defibrillator was locked, and an access code was required before this could be used in the event of an emergency.

The Clerk stated that the usual route to access the defibrillator would be via the ambulance service. Members recognised that in the event of an emergency this process may be too long, and therefore it was agreed that the defibrillator would be unlocked, and available for use by all residents if necessary.

The Clerk was asked to include this information in the Parish Councils pages in the Detling News.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Litter and Fly Tipping in the Parish

The Clerk reported that correspondence had been received from a resident regarding the increase in litter and fly tipping in the parish.

The Chairman stated that she had been in contact with Maidstone Borough Council regarding CCTV signs to see whether these would assist with the fly tipping issues.

Cllr Finn suggested a litter pick could be organised on Harple Lane/Pilgrims Way. It was noted that this was not possible at the moment because of social distancing restrictions, however it was agreed that this would be considered at some point in the future.

Picnic Request for Old School Playing Field

The clerk reported that The Parish Council had received a request to use the old school playing field for a village picnic in the summer. The details were circulated to all present.

This was agreed by the Parish Council.

7. Chairman and Councillor Reports.

Cllr Bowie reported that there were broadband issues at the Scragged Oak Road end of the parish. She stated that grants were available to assist with the implementation of broadband in rural areas and she asked for the Parish Council support in submitting a funding application. This was discussed and agreed by members.

Cllr Bowie spoke regarding the possibility of giving assistance to children in Detling to assist with online learning devices.

This was discussed and it was noted that BBC South East's Make a Difference Campaign was currently assisting children by making laptops and tablets available for them to use.

It was agreed that the Parish Council would place an article in the Detling news to encourage any families in Detling that were having issues to contact the Parish Council if they needed assistance.

A general discussion regarding the lockdown restrictions were discussed, and the affects this was having on some people.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding his Covid Paper that was circulated at the December PC meeting and stated that the suggestions in it could assist some families. It was agreed that Cllr Finn would re-circulate this paper to all members for further consideration.

8. Parish Council Committee Reports.

a. Open Spaces Committee.

The minutes from the recent Open Spaces Committee Meeting was circulated to all present.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding the minutes and stated that the recommendations from the Open Spaces Committee were as follows:

- To extend the contract for the management of Horish Wood with Medway Valley Conservation Partnership for a further two-year period. He stated that they were in agreement with this and asked for Parish council approval to progress this.
This was agreed by members.
- Cllr Finn reported that the access pathway in the woodland was prone to flooding and the Open Spaces Committee had recommended the approval of £180 to purchase wood chips to lay on the footpath.
This was agreed by members.
- It was reported that the hire of a chipper, previously agreed by the Parish Council would now be undertaken after the nesting season.
This was noted by members.
- Cllr Finn spoke regarding the income the Parish Council was due to receive for Forest Schools in Horish would. He asked for members approval to reinvest this income into the improvements and management of Horish Wood.
This was agreed by members.

b. Finance Committee.

Cllr Bowie reported that the Finance Committee was due to meet in the near future.

c. Highways Report.

Cllr Bowie stated that the Parish Councils Highway Representatives were currently drafting a new Highways Improvement Plan, and this would be circulated to all members for comments and be brought back to the next Parish Council meeting for formal consideration.

She reported that the Parish Council had received correspondence from a resident regarding highways issues, this was noted by members, and it was agreed that the Highways Representatives would draft a response for the Clerk to send.

Action: Highways Representatives to draft response letter to resident.

The Clerk was asked to place an item in the Detling News advising residents how they could report issues such as potholes and fly tipping online.

Action: Clerk to progress.

9. Planning Matters.

a. To consider all Planning Applications received.

Cllr Bryant reported on the planning applications that had been considered by the Parish Councils Planning Committee since the last PC meeting.

Applications Received

21/500052/FULL 65 Hockers Lane Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JN

Demolition of conservatory and erection of single storey rear extension.

Other Planning Matters.

Cllr Bryant spoke regarding issues with planning applications in the parish and stated that he was due to meet with MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd to discuss the planning issues and would report back to the next meeting.

b. To note MBC Decisions.

20/505495/SUB

Barn at Pollyfields Farm Scragged Oak Road Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3HL

Submission of details pursuant to condition 2 (Biodiversity) and condition 3 (Tree Planting) in relation to planning permission 19/506427/FULL.

Application Permitted

20/504673/FULL

Alternative Reference PP-09117625

Land Rear Of 7 The Street Detling Kent ME14 3JU

Erection of a detached 3-bedroom dwelling with ancillary parking facilities, cycle storage and bin storage.

Application Refused

20/504941/FULL

3 Hockers Lane Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JL

Amendment to planning application 20/501164/FULL (Minor material amendment to 16/503947 [allowed on appeal] for single storey dwelling; demolition of dwelling and ancillary buildings at No.1 Hockers Lane, and construction of replacement chalet dwelling and garage), to provide passing bays. (Section 73A application)

Application Permitted

- c. To consider any Appeals and Enforcement Matters.
No matters were raised.

10. Reports from External Parties:

- a. KCC Councillors Report.

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Prendergast.

- b. MBC Councillors Report.

MBC Councillor de Wiggondene-Shepperd gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding that the Hazlett Theatres future had now been settled after a U-turn by Maidstone Borough Council.

He spoke regarding the Local Plan process and matters affecting Maidstone Borough Council.

He spoke regarding the Parish Councils concerns about planning decisions for Detling and confirmed he was due to meet Cllr Bryant to discuss this.

A general discussion then took place.

- d. PC Maintenance Report.

Tony Taylor gave a report on the maintenance he had undertaken in the parish during the past two months.

He reminded members that the defibrillator service and battery replacement was due to be changed in April/May 2021.

The Chairman thanked Tony Taylor for his report and work for the Parish.

- e. Councillor Reports.

No matters were reported.

11. Parish Council Governance.

- a. Standing Orders.

The NALC Model Standing Orders were circulated to all members for review. It was proposed by Cllr Bowie to accept these, this was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present.

- b. Financial Regulations.

The NALC Model Financial Regulations were circulated to all members for review. It was proposed by Cllr Bowie to accept these, this was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present.

- c. Memorial Bench Policy.

The Draft Memorial Bench was circulated to all members for adoption. It was proposed by Cllr Bowie to accept this, this was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present.

12. Old School Playing Field.

The following report was circulated to all members.

Access Gate and Fencing.

As agreed at the December PC meeting, the new fence and access gate has been installed around the Community Shop area to ensure that the Old School Playing Field remains secure for the users of the playing field.

This has now highlighted an issue with the walkway access from the original gate to the new gate, as the tarmaced area is only at the original gate area.

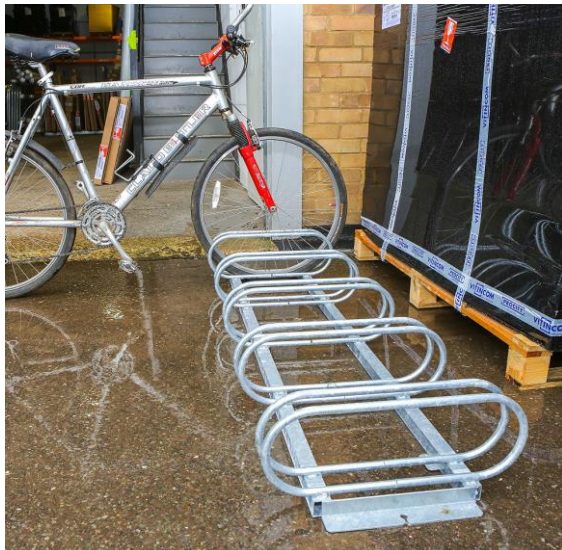
There is a need for members to consider a safe walkway between the two gates to ensure that this is a safe.

Following discussions by the Open Spaces Committee, it has been suggested that the Parish Council may wish to consider tarmacing a pathway between the two gates, this could also incorporate a small tarmaced area for the bike rack.

It was agreed that Cllr Clayton would seek quotations for the pathway, and these would be considered at the next PC Meeting.

Bike Racks

Following the last meeting, members have considered bike racks styles that would be suitable for the Old School Playing Field. The following style is therefore recommended. It would need to be installed on a tarmac base.



The cost of this is £102.14 plus vat.

Members approved the purchase of the Bike Rack; it was agreed that this would be ordered and installed when the pathway quotations have been considered as they would include installation of the rack.

Goal Posts

Cllr Clayton reported that he had received a request from children using the playing field to have goal posts installed at the field. He stated that he had researched these and asked the meeting to consider purchasing the following:



..

The cost of these are £79.95 each plus vat.

This was discussed and it was agreed that more appropriate goal post options would be explored.

13. Items to be placed on the next Agenda.

- *NHP – Cllr Bowie informed members that KALC were looking into Neighbourhood Plans to ascertain whether they were effective, and she would feedback any information to the next meeting.*
- *PC Policies – To be reviewed at the Annual Meeting.*
- *Covid Support.*
- *Parish Communication.*

14. Date of next meeting.

To be confirmed.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 21.33pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____