

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Detling Parish Council
held on 6th March 2018 at 7.20pm in Detling Village Hall.**

Councillors present: *Bowie*
Clayton
Howells
Maynard
Zammit

Also, present: *Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast, MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene and Members of the Public and Press*

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bowie.

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 Parish Councillors Finn and Evernden.

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.

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

There were no Interests declared and no Dispensation requests to consider.

3. Public Comments and Observations.

This is the opportunity for members of the public to raise issues with the Parish Council.

John Watson attended the meeting to speak regarding the ratrun traffic in the village. He stated that he had written to Helen Whateley MP about this matter and she had suggested that the issue was raised with KCC Councillor Prendergast.

He stated that he had received correspondence from residents seeking action to address the problem.

Cllr Howells suggested that at some point in the future the Parish Council should make contact with the Police and seek a meeting.

The Chairman reported on information that she had circulated regarding the *20 is Plenty Scheme*. She stated that she had been in contact with other Parish Councils that had financed their own highways schemes by appointing an independent consultant to advise on the options.

She suggested that a small group was set up to take this matter forward with consideration to appointing a consultant to give options for consultation. Cllr Clayton stated that he felt that the PC had the evidence to put together a proposed plan.

He stated that the 20 is Plenty issue was difficult as it was not enforced by the police.

He stated that felt that a group should be set up before a consultant was considered.

Cllr Bowie suggested that a Resources Committee Meeting was arranged to discuss the PC finance and future projects.

This was agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to circulate dates for a Resources Committee Meeting.

John Watson stated the he would place an article in the Detling News to seek interested parties to join the Highways Group and he and Cllr Howells would then take this matter forward.

Cllr Howells stated that the existing signage also needed to be considered as it was unclear and needed clarity.

Councillor Prendergast stated that she felt the the issue was down to enforcement by the police and she suggested a meeting was arranged with the Police and Crime Commissioner, Matthew Scott. She stated that if a meeting was arranged she would be willing to attend this.

Cllr Bowie agreed with this suggestion.

Councillor Prendergast also suggested that a meeting was organised with a KCC Highways Officer who may be able to assist with the problem.

The Chairman welcomed this suggestion and Cllr Prendergast stated that she would arrange a date for the meeting.

A resident in attendance at the meeting reported that a fridge had been fly tipped along Hockers Lane.

Action: Clerk to report to MBC.

4. 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 from the previous meeting were circulated to all members for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Cllr Clayton to accept these as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Howells and agreed by all present.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

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

Cllr Howells referred to the comment in the minutes regarding an increase in lorries using the village and he stated that this was still an issue.

6. Parish Councillor Vacancy.

The Chairman informed members that an application for the Parish Councillor vacancy had been received and the details had been circulated to all members.

She welcomed applicant Carla Maynard to the meeting and invited her to speak regarding her application.

Following a short address from Carla Maynard, it was proposed by Cllr Clayton to Co-opt her onto the Parish Council, this was seconded by Cllr Howells and agreed by all present.

It was agreed that Councillor Maynard would sign her Declaration of Acceptance Office at the next meeting.

Action: Clerk to place item on next agenda.

Action: Clerk to inform MBC of new Councillor.

Action: Clerk to forward Councillor Information onto new Councillor.

7. Open Spaces.

a. Horish Wood

The Chairman informed members that She and Cllrs Clayton and Howells had attended a meeting with Alison Wainman from KWES and representatives from Kent Wildlife Trust and Mid Kent Downs to discuss Horish Wood.

She reported on the discussions that took place and stated that it had been a very constructive meeting.

She stated that as a result of the meeting there were a number of issues that needed to be debated by the Parish Council.

She asked members if the Parish Council wished to continue to work with KWES and the Management Plan on Horish Wood.

This was discussed, and it was proposed by Cllr Clayton to continue to work with KWES, this was seconded by Cllr Howells and agreed by all present.

The Chairman spoke regarding the Woodland Grant received by the Parish Council for work in relation to Horish Wood. She stated that this had been paid to the Parish Council and asked members if they wished this grant to be passed over the KWES to undertake the work in the Woodland.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that the grant and subsequent grants for the Woodland Grant Scheme would be passed over to KWES, subject to them undertaking the required work in the Woodland.

This was proposed by Cllr Bowie, seconded by Cllr Howells, and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to raise cheque for payment of grant to KWES.

The Chairman stated that KWES were keen to organise training events and engage with the local community. She asked members if they wished to take this forward.

Cllr Zammit stated that she would be willing to liaise with KWES regarding this matter and assist with the organisation of events for the Parish.

This was agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to action.

The Chairman stated that during discussions at the meeting it was suggested that a notice board was erected to inform residents that the Woodland was managed by KWES.

She stated that whilst walking around the Woodland, Mrs Wainman had explained that there was a need for some large oaks to be removed to open the canopy and walks in Horish Wood. She suggested that this was a matter to be considered at some point in the future.

It was also suggested that a Councillor should be appointed to liaise with KWES regarding the Management Plan, the Chairman stated that in undertaking this role, the appointed Councillor could not make decisions on behalf of the Parish Council and the Clerk needed to be copied in on all communications with KWES.

Cllr Maynard states that she would be willing to undertake this role. This was agreed by members.

Cllr Howells suggested that consideration was given to setting up a Community Group to work with KWES and other open spaces within the parish and to consider working with KWES in other areas of the parish. It was agreed that this matter would be considered at a future meeting.

b. Old School Playing Field.

Cllr Zammit stated that she was currently liaising with contractors to seek quotation for the new play equipment.

She stated that it was hoped that the play equipment would be in place by April/May 2018. She stated that she would circulate a full proposal to all members for consideration at the next meeting.

Action: Cllr Zammit to action.

Cllr Bowie suggested that a Public Consultation should take place.

Cllr Zammit stated that she would consider the timescales before arranging a date for the Public Consultation. This was agreed.

c. Village Environmental Improvements.

Cllr Howells informed members that he had attended the Joint Parish Group Meeting and he reported on this.

He stated that the CPRE Judicial Review had been unsuccessful and they were not going to appeal the decision.

He spoke regarding the discussion on air pollution and stated that any increase in air pollution was illegal.

He suggested that it may be useful for the Parish to invest in its own air quality monitoring equipment to monitor the air pollution in Detling.

Cllr Clayton asked if Dr Stuart Maxwell, Air Quality Officer from MBC could be invited to attend the next meeting to speak and advise the PC on air quality issues.

This was agreed by members.

Action: Clerk to progress.

Cllr Howells referred to the forthcoming Tri Parish Group Meeting and suggested that a collective study of air quality was undertaken with Stockbury and Thurnham Parish Councils. It was agreed that this would be raised at the Tri Parish Group Meeting.

d. Monks Meadow.

No matters were raised.

e. Scragged Oak View Point.

No matters were raised.

8. Reports from External Parties.

a. MBC Ward Councillor Report.

Ward Councillor Nick de Wiggondene gave his report to the meeting.

He stated that the MBC budget was due to be debated at the MBC Council Meeting on 7th March and it was likely that the council tax would be raised by 3%.

He reported that the changes to parking charges was also due to be discussed at this meeting.

KCC Councillor Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her report to the meeting.

She reported that KCC had approved their budget with a 4.99% increase, this figure included the 2% allowable for adult social care.

She reported that the bus consultation was currently on hold and no changes had been made.

Cllr Clayton asked if any council services were due to be reduced as a result of the cut backs by KCC and MBC.

Councillor Prendergast stated that it was inevitable that some services would be affected, however these were likely to be discretionary services.

b. Maintenance Report.

Tony Taylor reported on the maintenance that he had undertaken around the parish.

He stated that he undertook regular checks of the Defibrillator, cleaned the bus stop, replaced the light, and washed down the Village Planter.

He stated that some of the drains and gullies were still blocked in The Street.

Action: Clerk to report to Kent Highways.

He informed members that the Tudor Wall had deteriorated and was in need of inspection as he was concerned about its stability.

It was agreed that the Parish Council should seek the views of a Surveyor.

Action: Clerk to progress.

The Chairman thanked Mr Taylor for his work around the parish.

c. Police Report.

PCSO Matt Adlington gave his apologies to the meeting.

9. Parish Council Reports.

a. Clerk's/Correspondence Report.

To consider items of correspondence received relevant to the Parish Council.

The Clerks report was noted by members.

Kent County Council Consultations

A20 Harrietsham Highway Improvements Scheme

You've been invited to participate in the A20 Harrietsham Highway Improvements Scheme consultation by the consultation manager, Nicola Hale.

This consultation is open from 12 Feb 2018 at 09:00 to 18 Mar 2018 at 23:59.

Dear Sir or Madam,

As you have previously expressed an interest in receiving information on Consultations regarding Traffic, Transport & Roads and General Interest you may be interested in the following consultation.

Kent County Council (KCC) is proposing highway improvements on the A20, Harrietsham to create a more pedestrian friendly environment and improve links between the new housing development sites, the existing housing and village centre.

This consultation closes on 18th March.

b. Chairman's/ Councillors Report.

Members who have attended any meeting on behalf of the Parish Council are invited to give their report to the meeting.

No matters were reported.

c. Planning Committee Report.

The planning decisions made by the Planning Committee were ratified by the Parish Council. (Clayton/Howells).

d. Parish Council Committee Reports.

No matters were raised.

10. Parish Council Notice Boards.

It was agreed that Cllr Howells would liaise with Tony Taylor and put a cover on the noticeboards to protect parish notices.

Action: Cllr Howells to progress.

11. PC Policy Review and Data Protection Regulations.

The Clerk stated that she would circulate the PC policies for review at the next meeting and keep members updated on the Data Protection Regulations.

Action: Clerk to progress.

12. Village Events.

Beacons of Light – The Chairman stated that she had discussed this event with the County Showground to consider hosting the event at the Showground.

She stated that she would report further at the next meeting.

Action: Chairman to Action.

13. Financial Matters.

a. To approve the payment of accounts (list to be supplied at the meeting)

The cheques for payment were authorised and approved by members. (Howells/Zammit)

The cheques and invoices were then signed by two authorised signatories.

- b. To note the bank account balances as circulated in report supplied at the meeting.
The balances of the Parish Councils bank accounts were noted by members.

Bank Balances

Co-operative Current Account	£73970.39
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0
Less Account for payment	£1298.67
Closing Balance	£72671.72

Co-operative Playing Field A/C	£1505.87
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Closing Balance	£1,505.87

Total Balance of all Parish Council Accounts **£74177.59**

Transparency Fund (This fund is included in the current account balances)

20/07/2016	Grant received	£1,420.32
	Less payments	£353.99
Balance		£1066.33

14. Items for the next Agenda.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 3rd April 2018 in the Meeting Room of Detling Village Hall at 7.00pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.10pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____