



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 2 January 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 seven members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Time

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

A member of the public asked about the Code of Conduct.

The meeting was reconvened.

1. Apologies.

Apologies had been received from Cllr Chris Evernden (medical issue) and Lawrence Rustem (unwell).

2. 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 advice.

Cllr Maclaren declared a pecuniary interest in item 12a which affects her property.

Cllr Springett declared, for public information, membership of Bearsted Parish Council which instigated the Joint Parishes Group.

3. Dispensations

None were requested.

4. Items to be taken in closed session

None were identified.

5. Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 December 2023

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 of the previous meeting as a true record.

Cllr English duly signed the minutes as a true record.

- b) Matters arising from the minutes (except those issues appearing under specific headings)

All matters on the agenda.

6. Detling Village Hall Management Committee

Cllr English **PROPOSED** Cllr Jubb to be the Council's nominated representative and Cllr Maclaren to be the substitute member on the Village Hall Management Committee; **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

7. Standing Orders

Deferred to next meeting.

8. Visitors

- a) Borough Councillor

MBCllr Thompson said there was nothing to report.

- b) County Councillor

An annual report had been received from the County Councillor and this will be put on the website, the Ward Member will also be permitted to submit a report for publishing.

9. Correspondence

Cllr English reported that he had received information about CIL funds; there are four sites within the parish with one subject to an appeal. The amount due is £8,584 and this will be available over the next few years for projects.

A resident asked if name plates could be installed in Church Lane.

ACTION: Cllr English and Cllr Springett to contact Maidstone Borough Council.

10. Planning

Cllr English did not take part in the discussion or decision of this item

- a) Ref: 23/505597/FULL

Address: Hillside House Pilgrims Way Detling Kent ME14 3EX

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

Cllr Springett **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council had no objections: **4- FOR; 1 NON-VOTING: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

- b) Ref: 23/505276/FULL

Address: Longton Manor Stockbury Valley Stockbury Kent ME9 7QN

Proposal: Change of use of land for stationing of 15(no) static caravan pitches, to be occupied by Gypsies and Traveller families, with associated hard surfacing/parking. (part retrospective).

Councillors considered the proposal and noted that as of 26 December 2023 all designated Areas of Outstanding Beauty (AONBs) in England and Wales became 'National Landscapes' under the Levelling-Up and Regeneration Act 2023, and this strengthens the protection of the areas. This is a change in national policy and needs to be tested. The proposal contravenes Maidstone Borough Local Plan Policy SP 17. Councillors took advice that Gypsy and Traveller site applications should be referred to the Borough Committee, as the relevant policies are complex.

Cllr Springett **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council object to the application as the proposal contravenes Maidstone Borough Local Plan Policy SP 17, it fails to enhance and protect the natural beauty of the National Landscape and the site affects the ancient woodland. Should the Officer be minded to approve the application, it should be considered by the Planning Committee: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **4- FOR; 1 NON-VOTING: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

11. Financial Matters:

a) Finance report.

Received and noted.

b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500073	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll- November	30.00	6.00	£36.00
500074	Detling PCC	Newsletter			£600.00
500075	Mazars	External Audit	315.00	63.00	£378.00
500076	Administration	Expenses			£74.05
500077-8	Staff costs				
500079	Detling Village Hall	Room hire			£24.00

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

c) To review and adopt Budget 2024/5

Cllr Springett **PROPOSED** to set the budget at £51,593: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

d) To set Precept 2024/5

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to set the precept at £40,000: **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

12. Highways

a) To receive an update

b) Highways Improvement Plan- to agree plan

Cllr Maclaren did not take part in the decision of this matter.

Cllr Maclaren reported that the Highways and Transportation Working Group has drafted the Highways Improvement Plan and set the priorities.

The Highways Improvement Plan was agreed and will be submitted to KCC Highways.

ACTION 1: MBCllr Thompson to set up meeting with MBC Parking Services.

ACTION 2: Meeting to be arranged with Greg McNicoll, KCC Highways.

ACTION 3: MBCllr Thompson to raise issue of vehicles parking at the bottom of Hockers Lane with Thurnham and Bearsted Parish Councils.

c) Joint Parishes Group- to receive an update

Cllr Springett reported that a meeting is being arranged, there will be Terms of Reference for the group.

13. Open Spaces

a) Monks Meadow -To receive an update

b) Horish Woods- to receive an update

The Council heard that volunteers are still working hard in Monks Meadow and Horish Woods.

- c) Play area- to receive an update
- d) To consider quotations for play area repairs

The Clerk reported that three contractors had been approached for quotations and only one quote has been received.

*ACTION: Clerk to request details about different types of matting.
Item deferred.*

14. Princes Way Alley

Matter ongoing.

ACTION: Clerk to chase for an update.

15. Community Resilience

Cllr English said that there is a lot of resilience training which will give the Council a template. Emergency contact numbers could be publicised on the notice boards and website.

ACTION 1: Clerk to collate information.

ACTION 2: Clerk to contact KCC Highways regarding plans for flood mitigation.

16. Land issues

Deferred to next agenda

Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 6 February 2024

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.42pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 6 February 2024