



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 7 November 2023 in Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Thompson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Chris Evernden, Cllr Lawrence Rustem and Cllr Val Springett; and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were twelve members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Public Time

No comments or questions were raised.

Cllr English tendered his resignation to the Clerk.
Cllr Thompson took the Chair.

2023/105- Councillor Vacancies

All candidates for co-option were invited to address the Council and make statements in support of their application.

A vote of Members was taken and Mr Clive English was co-opted to the Council; signed his declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and took his seat on the Council.

Under the terms of the Order made by Maidstone Borough Council, Cllr Springett and Cllr Thompson ceased to be appointed to the Parish Council.

2023/106- Election of Chairman

Cllr Evernden **PROPOSED** that Cllr English be elected Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Rustem: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr English signed his declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and took the Chair.

2023/107- Councillor Vacancies

Councillors considered the candidates for co-option and voted to co-opt Mrs Laura Maclaren, Mr Steve Jubb and Mr Stephen Thompson to the Council; all signed their declaration of Acceptance of Office in the presence of the Clerk and took their seats on the Council.

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Chris Evernden, Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura Maclaren, Cllr Lawrence Rustem and Cllr Stephen Thompson;
and Mrs Wendy Licence (Clerk).

Also present were ten members of the public.

2023/108- Apologies.

All members were present.

2023/109- Declaration of Interest. or Lobbying

Cllr English declared that he is a Member of Maidstone Borough Council Planning Committee and would not discuss or vote on planning applications other than to give procedural advice on planning applications.

2023/110- Dispensations

None were requested.

2023/111- Items to be taken in closed session

None were required.

2023/112- Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 3 October 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
All matters to be dealt with under agenda headings.

2023/113- Standing Orders

Cllr English said some amendments have been made and he will further review Standing Orders for the next agenda.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** amendments to Standing Orders; **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2023/114- Visitors

a) Borough Councillor
Ward Member Stephen Thompson reported that following concerns raised by residents he had met with Ellie Pannell and Nikki Dorkings at the Kent Event Centre.
There have been ongoing challenges from the significant road upgrade at the Stockbury roundabout.

b) County Councillor
Cllr English said that there was no report from the County Councillor. He has written to KCCllr Shellina Prendergast regarding a number of highways issues and has had no response. The matters will now be taken to the Cabinet member for Highways and also with Helen Whately MP.

2023/115- Correspondence

Cllr English reported that a complaint had been received that Cllr Springett had refused someone admittance to the last meeting; Cllr Springett was at a Bearsted parish Council meeting last month and not at Detling. The correspondent was requested to ask the person affected to contact the Council directly rather than through a third party.

2023/116- Planning

a) Ref: 23/501591/FULL

Address: Windy Bottom Sittingbourne Road Detling

Proposal: 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).

PINS reference: APP/U2235/W/23/3324829

Cllr English said an appeal to the Planning Inspectorate has been lodged against Maidstone Borough Council's decision.

8.25pm- Cllr Evernden left the meeting.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council should submit an objection to the Planning Inspectorate to support the decision of Maidstone Borough Council: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

b) Ref: 23/504903/FULL

Address: 3 Hockers Close Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JR

Proposal: Removal of existing conservatory. Erection of front porch, single storey side and single storey rear extensions.

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Thompson **PROPOSED** that there were no objections to the proposal: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **5 FOR; 1- NON-VOTING: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2023/117- Financial Matters:

a) Finance report

Councillors noted the finance report.

Cllr English said the Council will need to consider the budget and precept at the next meeting.
ITEM FOR NEXT AGENDA

b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500058	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll- October	30.00	6.00	£36.00
500059	KALC	AGM	10.00	12.00	£12.00
500060	Maidstone Tree Surgeons Ltd	Tree work	1,030.00	206.00	£1,236.00
500061	Paul Waring	Grounds maintenance	1,202.00	240.40	£1,442.40
500062	Detling Village Hall	Room hire			£24.00
500063	Stuart Betts	Updating honours boards			£250.00
500064	Administration	Expenses	171.06	14.61	£185.67
500065-66	Staff				

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

c) To consider RBL Poppy Appeal donation for wreath

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to donate £35.00 to the Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal for the poppy wreath: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. (cheque no 50067)

d) External Auditors' report

The Clerk reported that the Council had not been able to meet the deadline to submit the Annual Return as it had been inquorate; Mazars had been kept informed of the situation and notified immediately when it was expected to be signed off. No except for matters were raised by Mazars, the External Auditor.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** the report be noted: **SECONDED** by Cllr Rustem: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

ACTION: Clerk to circulate the Asset Register.

2023/118- Highways

a) To receive an update

Cllr Maclaren reported that the Highways and Transportation Working Group had met. There are issues with the maintenance of the drains in the village and also that there are no drains in Church Road. Flooding regularly occurs on the slip roads from the A249 and this is being reported regularly.

Cllr English thanked Cllr Maclaren for her sterling work on highways and said that he will raise the issues with the KCC Cabinet Member and also with the MP.

b) Joint Parishes Group

Cllr English said Bearsted Parish Council is trying to set up a Coordinated Parishes Traffic Group to try to address traffic and highways concerns across connected parishes.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that Detling Parish Council will join in the Parishes Group: **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr Maclaren and Cllr Stephen Thompson be the Parish Council's representatives.

2023/119- Open Spaces

a) Monks Meadow -To receive an update

b) Horish Woods- to receive an update

Cllr English reported that he and Cllr Thompson has met with the volunteers who carry out maintenance work in Monks Meadow and Horish Woods. Cllr English thanked Mr John Monk and all the volunteers for all their help.

Cllr Thompson expressed gratitude on behalf of the community for the work volunteers have carried out as this has enhanced the Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty.

c) Play area- to receive an update

Cllr English said he and Cllr Thompson met with Mr Tony Taylor to review the inspection report and look the three main sets of equipment, the slide matting needs replacing and the other matting could be pegged down. Quotations will be obtained for the work. There is an issue with brambles and it was considered that rather than repeatedly trim the brambles, prickly hedging might be preferable as this would also afford the neighbouring houses some security. A suggestion has been made for two beech trees to give shade and this needs to be looked at on a sunny day.

Val Springett reported that she is waiting for the PSPO signs. There is a Public Spaces Protection Order for dogs and recent changes include a limit on the number of dogs someone is permitted to walk and also a limit for professional dog walkers. If dog walkers do not stick to the rules, the Council can ask the Community Protection Team to come out.

Mr Taylor reported that a local company has donated ten trays of violas and all have been planted in the village.

Cllr English thanked Mr Taylor for his help.

2023/120- Princes Way Alley

Cllr English reported that statements are still being collected.

2023/121- Community Resilience

Cllr English said details of a Community Resilience Plan have been circulated and other organisations need to be contacted.

2023/122- Villager of the Year 2023

Cllr English said that nominations will be sought for the award.

2023/123- Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 5 December 2023

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.10 pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 5 December 2023