



Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 5 December 2023 in Detling Village Hall

Present: Cllr Clive English (Chairman), Cllr Stephen Thompson (Vice Chairman), Cllr Steve Jubb, Cllr Laura McLaren 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

The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time

The Council was thanked for getting KCC Highways to carry out work on the junction with A249. Issues were raised regarding parking outside the village hall; highways safety issues; contact with the County Councillor; and difficulty crossing the A249 from one side of the village to the other.

7.30pm the meeting was reconvened

2023/124 Apologies

Cllr English reminded Members of the Code of Conduct
Apologies had been received from Cllr Chris Evernden (unwell) and Cllr Lawrence Rustem (another engagement).

2023/125 Councillor Vacancy

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to co-opt Mrs Val Springett to the Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr McLaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**. Mrs Springett signed her declaration of acceptance of office in the presence of the Clerk and took her seat on the Council.

2023/126 Election of Vice Chairman

Cllr English **PROPOSED** Cllr Thompson for Vice Chairman; **SECONDED** by Cllr Springett: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2023/127 Declaration of Interest. or Lobbying

Cllr English declared an interest in item 17 as he might be on the Community Resilience panel; and in item 11 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 Springett declared an interest in item 13b as being a Member of Bearsted Parish Council which is spearheading the group.

2023/128 Dispensations

None were requested.

2023/129 Items to be taken in closed session

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that item 20 be considered in closed session: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2023/130 Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 7 November 2023

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

The minutes were amended. 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.

2023/131 Standing Orders

Deferred to next meeting.

2023/132 Visitors

Borough Councillor

MBCllr Thompson reported that he had been contacted by the Kent Messenger about the removal of the speed camera on the north bound carriageway of the A249 and had stated that if the changes made improved safety, it would be welcomed. He had called in the planning application at Reeds Woods to Committee and made representation to refuse the proposal at the meeting; the Committee refused the application. The planning application at Court Farm will be followed up.

Cllr English reported that he had attending the MBC Cluster meeting for rural parishes. The Police reported was favourable regarding Detling although there were issues of inappropriate motor bike use along the Pilgrims Way and some fly tipping.

2023/133 Correspondence

A request for traffic calming in Hockers Lane had been received, this will be considered by the Highways & Transportation Working Group.

2023/134 Planning

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

Ref: 23/505033/FULL

Address: Pollyfields Barn Scragged Oak Road Detling Kent ME14 3HL

Proposal: Erection of an ancillary outbuilding (partially retrospective)

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Springett **PROPOSED** that the Parish Council had no objections and would request a condition that the outbuilding be for ancillary use to the main building and not become a separate dwelling: **4- FOR; 1 NON-VOTING: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

2023/135 Financial Matters:

- a) Finance report

Cllr English reported that the Council is in a satisfactory financial position.

b) Invoices for payment

Cheque no	Payee	Reason	Nett	VAT	Total
500068	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll- November	30.00	6.00	£36.00
500069	Bearsted Parish Council	Community Bus contribution			£500.00
500070-1	Staff	Salary			
500072	Administration	Expenses	£85.30	0.83	£84.47

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

2023/136 Highways

Cllr Maclaren reported that there are regular meetings of the Highways & Transportation Working Group which is working towards the Highways Improvement Plan. The removal of the speed cameras on the A249 was discussed. The flooding issues have been dealt with by KCC Highways the water has been cleared and the drains cleaned; the next stage will be to install better drainage. The flooding must be reported to KCC Highways. The grit bins were refilled by request, there needs to be a grit bin on Jades Crossing and this will be requested.

ACTION: Clerk to request grit bin.

2023/137 Open Spaces

- a) Monks Meadow -To receive an update
- b) Horish Woods- to receive an update

Cllr English said there were no updates and the Council will consider the budget for the area. Cllr English thanked Mr John Monk for his sterling work in the area.

- c) Play area- to receive an update

There was nothing to report.

- d) To consider quotations for play area repairs

Quotations being obtained.

2023/138 Detling Village Hall

Cllr Thompson declared an interest in this item as a substitute member of MBC Planning Committee and did not take part in the discussion or decision.

Cllr Maclaren **PROPOSED** to support the installation of solar panels and associated battery storage; **SECONDED** by Cllr English: **4- FOR; 1 NON-VOTING: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr Thompson said that he is unable to continue as Parish Council representative on the Village Hall Management Committee.

Item for next agenda

2023/139 Princes Way Alley

Matter ongoing.

2023/140 Community Resilience

Cllr English said the Church is actively helping the community in Detling.

Cllr Springett **PROPOSED** the Council support the Church if it decides to apply for a grant from Maidstone Borough Council; **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **4- FOR; 1 NON-VOTING: AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

Cllr Thompson said the Parish Council needs to locate structures for people to contact, such as a phone tree or emails.

Cllr English said available resources need to be considered.

ACTION: Clerk to locate previous Parish Council report.

2023/141 Defibrillator

Cllr English **PROPOSED** accepting the quotation of £207.90 per annum from Hopkins for the maintenance of defibrillator: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

2023/142 Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 2 January 2024.

2023/143 Staffing Matters

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 Staffing Matters

Cllr English **PROPOSED** accepting the national salary award; **SECONDED** by Cllr Maclaren: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY.**

The Clerk's appraisal will be conducted by Cllr English and Cllr Thompson.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 8.52pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 2 January 2024