

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Detling Parish Council  
held on 1<sup>st</sup> October 2019 at 7.00pm in Detling Village Hall.**

**Councillors present:** *Bowie*  
*Clayton*  
*Coles*  
*Finn*

**Also, present:** *Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington MBC Cllr Nick de Wiggondene-Shepperd and Members of the Public.*

*The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bowie.*

*Councillor Bowie opened the meeting and read out a statement regarding the recording and filming during the meeting.*

**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 Councillor Bryant and 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.*

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

There were no Interests declared and no Dispensations were considered.

**3. Public Comments and Observations.**

*The meeting is adjourned to enable members of the public to raise issues with the Parish Council. Public Comments and Observations will last a total of 15 minutes with each speaker being given a maximum of 3 minutes to speak.*

*The meeting was adjourned at 7.05pm.*

A resident asked about the proposed speed cameras for the parish.

Cllr Clayton stated that these were being considered and the Parish Council was working with Kent Highways regarding this.

*The meeting was reconvened at 7.15pm.*

**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 was circulated to all members for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Cllr Bowie to accept the minutes as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Clayton and agreed by all Councillors.

***The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.***

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

Parish Council Risk Assessment – it was agreed that a meeting would be arranged to review the Risk Assessment.

**Action: Review Meeting to be arranged.**

Highway Matters – Cllr Finn stated that he was unaware where the responsibility lay for Highway matters, at present Cllr Clayton was taking the lead with regards to the speed cameras.

This was discussed and it was agreed that there was a need to set up a Highways Working Group to look at highway matters.

Cllr Bowie proposed that the was set up with Cllr Coles as the lead, this was seconded by Cllr Finn and agreed by all present.

It was agreed that the Highways Improvement Plan needed to be reviewed and updated to include the white lines at junctions to Hockers Lane and Pilgrims Way.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding the proposed signs for the entrances to the village. He circulated a draft for the signs and asked members for their approval to purchase the *Welcome to the Village* and *Drive Carefully* signs at a cost of £287.00 + vat. This was seconded by Cllr Coles and agreed by all present.

**Action: Clerk to order signs.**

**6. Parish Councillor Vacancy.**

The Clerk stated that to date no applications for the vacancy had been received.

The Chairman suggested that the Parish Council should adopt a Cooption Policy outlining the procedure for dealing with Cooptions.

This was discussed and it was agreed that the Clerk would circulate a draft policy to all members, and this would be discussed at the next meeting.

**Action: Clerk to circulate draft policy and add item to next agenda.**

**7. Presentations from Outside Bodies.**

A representative for the Scragged Oak Farm development attended the meeting to speak regarding planning application 19/503314, he stated that this was currently being considered by MBC and their recommendation was to be refused under delegated powers.

He stated that the Parish Council had not raised any objections to the application and asked if they would request that this application was considered by the Planning Committee to enable them to speak on this matter.

This was discussed by members and it was agreed that as the Parish Council had no objections to the application and they felt the this was an improvement to the run down site, that they would write to MBC to request that the application was determined by the Planning Committee.

**Action: Clerk to write to MBC.**

**8. 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. (Clayton/Finn)

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**

<b>Co-operative Current Account</b>	<b>£66422.57</b>
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Less Account for payment	£1934.52
 <b>Closing Balance</b>	 <b>£64488.05</b>
 <b>Co-operative Deposit Account</b>	 <b>£1505.87</b>
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
 <b>Closing Balance</b>	 <b>£1,505.87</b>
 <b>Total Balance of all Parish Council Accounts</b>	 <b>£65993.92</b>

**Parish Councils Accounts.**

Members noted the conclusion of the audit notice. The Clerk confirmed that this had been placed on the notice board in line with the regulations.

The Budget Monitoring Statement was noted by members.

**9. Planning Matters.**

- a. To consider all Planning Applications received.

19/504813/FULL Pollyfields Farm Scragged Oak Road Detling Maidstone

Erection of a 3-bay garage with first floor home office and creation of a turning circle to improve access. (Resubmission to 19/501286/FULL)

- b. To note MBC Decisions.

19/503821/FULL

Pollehill Oast Scragged Oak Road Detling ME14 3HL

Demolition of existing barn and outbuilding and erection of residential annexe building.

Application Permitted

19/503956/NMAMD

Adjacent to Detling Village Hall Pilgrims Way Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JY

Non-Material Amendment rotation of the proposed container so that it is parallel with the Village Hall, and in part covering the same footprint of the approved development subject to 18/503272/FULL and 19/500202/SUB

Application Permitted)

- c. To consider any Appeals and Enforcement Matters.

No matters were reported.

## **10. Highway Matters.**

Cllr Finn spoke regarding Operation Brock and stated that if this was blocked the traffic would be diverted up the A249. Members discussed the implications of this and the problems with traffic on the A249 following an accident in the area.

It was agreed that the PC would keep an eye on this matter.

Cllr Clayton stated that there was a need for a meeting to be held with KCC to discuss the speed camera/sign for the village, and there was a need for the PC to work with the police and KCC to find a solution to the traffic problems in Detling.

Cllr Clayton informed members that he had attended a KALC Meeting and he spoke regarding the diffusion tubes and the results of these for the Parishes.

It was reported that there were no street signs in The Street or Church Lane.

***Action: Clerk to report to MBC.***

Concerns were raised regarding the overgrown hedges along Church Lane and the bottom of Hockers Lane.

***Action: Clerk to report to KCC.***

## **11. Reports from External Parties.**

### **a. KCC Councillor Report.**

Apologies were received from KCC Councillor Prendergast.

### **b. MBC Councillor Report.**

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

He spoke regarding the issue of crime and disorder in Maidstone and stated that meetings were taking place regarding the businesses in the Borough.

He reported on the Local Plan Review and stated that the call for Sites would be published confidentially to Parishes ahead of the public release on 4<sup>th</sup> November 2019.

A general discussion took place regarding the Local Plan Review and the housing numbers.

Cllr Finn asked about the Maidstone Innovation Centre being built on the KIMS site and he suggested that when this was completed, he felt that the Parish Council should advertise this to residents in the parish.

He spoke regarding the Local Plan deadline and he raised the issue of policy and suggested that the Parish Council should have a strategy for dealing with such consultations in the future. This was discussed and agreed by members.

Cllr de Wiggondene-Shepperd informed members that he had £1000 Community Grant available.

### **c. Maintenance Report.**

Cllr Finn stated that in the future the maintenance report would be given to the Open Spaces Committee who would then report back to the Parish Council Meeting.

Tony Taylor gave his report to the meeting on the maintenance that he had undertaken around the parish.

The Chairman thanked him for his work for the parish.

*d. Police Report.*

PCSO Matt Adlington gave his apologies to the meeting.

**12. 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.

**1. DPC request for Defibrillator training.**

This was agreed and the Clerk was asked to establish the details regarding the training.

**2. KCC Highways, Transportation - Parish Seminar for Maidstone**

KCC Highways, Transportation & Waste invites you to attend this year's Parish Seminar for Maidstone, Swale, Gravesham & Dartford.

The Seminar will take place between 09:50 and 13:00 on Thursday 28th November at Ditton Community Centre, Kiln Barn Road, Ditton, Kent, ME20 6AH.

There is plenty of parking on site, and refreshments will be provided on arrival and during the mid-morning break.

A range of topics will be discussed, including:

- Highways input into the development planning process
- Joint working with Parishes on highway plans
- HGV management issues
- Major projects
- Road Safety Education
- Updates from Cabinet Member and Director and KALC

Following the success last year of our Highways Market Place, we will again have a range of highways and waste stands where parishes can find out more about various parts of these services from highways colleagues.

Please reply to this email ([east.kenthighways@kent.gov.uk](mailto:east.kenthighways@kent.gov.uk)) confirming the names of a maximum of two delegates for your Parish or Town Council by no later than Friday 11th October. We would also be grateful to know if any of your delegates have any access requirements.

There are limited places available, so please be sure to book yours as soon as possible to meet with various Highway representatives and have an opportunity to ask them your questions.

A copy of the presentation will be published on the KALC website in November if you are unable to attend.

*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.*

Cllr Bowie gave her report to the meeting.

c. Open Spaces Committee Report.

The notes from the recent Open Spaces Committee were circulated to all present.

Cllr Bowie suggested that as there was a lot to issues, this should be considered at a separate meeting to enable matters to be discussed in detail.

Cllr Finn stated that the Open Spaces Committee had met on four occasions since the last Parish Council Meeting and these had all been informal meetings.

He spoke regarding Horish Wood and stated that in his view the Parish Council needed to take action to maintain the Woodland. He stated that he had walked this a number of times in September with Cllr Evernden and John Monk and urgent work had been undertaken in the Woodland for health and safety reasons resulting in three areas being cleared.

He confirmed that he had closed the contract with KWES. This was ratified by members (Bowie/Finn).

He reported that urgent work was still needed in the Woodland and the Medway Valley Conservation Partnership, working on behalf of KCC were willing to undertake this at a cost of £250 a day. This would allow for 10 volunteers to work in the Woodland being supervised by Medway Valley Conservation Partnership, and it was anticipated that 3 to 4 workdays were needed.

The budgetary implications of allocating £1000 for the work in Horish Wood in the current financial year was discussed by members, it was noted that there was an overall allocation of £3250 for Open Spaces in the budget and therefore this allocation was sufficient to cover the cost of the work.

It was therefore proposed by Cllr Finn to allocate £1000 from the budget to undertake the work in Horish Wood, this was seconded by Cllr Bowie and agreed by all present.

**Action: Cllr Finn to authorise Medway Valley Conservation Partnership to undertake workdays in Horish Wood as agreed.**

Cllr Bowie spoke regarding the Open Spaces Committee and stated that there should be three councillors serving on this Committee to ensure that there was always a majority vote on decisions, she stated that she would be happy to join the committee as the third members. This was agreed.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding the Maintenance Contract for 2020/2021and stated that he was still due to meet the third contractor on site to discuss the work. He would then report back to the next meeting.

Cllr Bowie suggested that the PC met in the near future to discuss the other issues relating to the Open Spaces Committee. This was agreed.

***Cllr Clayton gave his apologies and left the meeting.***

Other Committee Reports.

No matters were raised.

**13. Bus Services in Detling.**

A report from Cllr Bryant regarding the bus services in Detling was circulated to all present in his absence. This was discussed and a response from KCC Councillor Prendergast was also noted. Members discussed Cllr Bryant's suggestion to request that further buses serviced the village and it was agreed that the Clerk should write to Arriva regarding this matter.

**Action: Cllr to action.**

**14. Neighbourhood Plan.**

Cllr Bowie reported that she and Cllr Clayton had attended a meeting with Loose Parish Council regarding Neighbourhood Plans, and she reported on this.

A discussion took place regarding the process of starting the Neighbourhood Plan and setting up a NHP Committee. It was agreed that for this to be progressed, volunteers were needed to assist with the project.

It was agreed that an item would be placed in the Detling News to seek volunteers to serve on the NHP Group.

**Action: Clerk to progress.**

**15. Items for the next Agenda.**

Cllr Finn suggested that the PC may wish to consider having a village energy supplier and he spoke regarding this.

It was agreed that an item should be placed on the next agenda to explore this further.

**Action: Clerk to place item in next agenda.**

**16. Date of next meeting.**

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> November 2019 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 9.25pm.***

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_  
Chairman

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_