



## **Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held on Tuesday 3 October 2023 in Detling Village Hall**

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

Also present were fifteen members of the public.

Cllr English welcomed everyone to the meeting.

### **Public Time:**

*The meeting was adjourned for the Public Time*

Members of the public attended the meeting and raised the possibility of a village car park;  
drainage problems; trial bikes using Jade's Bridge; and co-option of Councillors.

*The meeting was reconvened.*

### **2023/91- Apologies.**

Apologies had been received from Cllr Val Springett (at another meeting).  
It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to accept the apologies.

### **2023/92- 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 advice after the  
words planning applications.

### **2023/93- Dispensations**

None were requested.

### **2023/94- Items to be taken in closed session**

None were identified.

### **2023/95- Approval of the minutes of the meeting held on 5 September 2023**

Councillors agreed an amendment to the minutes.

Cllr Evernden **PROPOSED** to accept the minutes, as amended, of the previous meeting as a  
true record: **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

Cllr English duly signed the minutes as a true record.

Cllr English said the Council has agreed a Co-option Policy and has sought advice from the Monitoring Officer. The Parish Council will consider CVs and will co-opt new Members at the November meeting, they will be able to take part in that meeting.

### **2023/96- Visitors**

#### a) Borough Councillor

MBCllr Thompson reported that there are two issues of enforcement which Planning Enforcement is aware of and thanked MBCllr Val Springett for her guidance.

KCC Highways has patched sixteen areas in The Street and thirteen in Hockers Lane.

A recycling bin was destroyed, previously residents would have to pay for a replacement but following lobbying, residents will not be charged for a replacement if damaged by a third party.

MBCllr Thompson thanked MBCllr Springett for her help with issues on Thurnham Lane and the suggestion of a Parishes Group, Thurnham Parish Council is fully supportive of the idea.

MBCllr Thompson said he will be attending a meeting with the County Showground to discuss issues arising from events.

Cllr English thanked MBCllr Thompson for his report.

#### b) County Councillor

There was no report from the County Councillor.

### **2023/97- Correspondence**

Invitation to Parish Meeting with Helen Whately MP- Cllr English to attend.

Maidstone Local Plan Review Main Modifications Consultation: Cllr English said the Borough Council has gone through the process of reviewing its Local Plan and the Planning Inspection has proposed main modification to the Local Plan. This is now out for public consultation. The main issue for Detling remains the possible traffic generation from the Lidsing allocation.

All other correspondence to be dealt under agenda items.

### **2023/98- Planning**

*Cllr English did not take part in the discussion or substantive votes on planning matters.*

#### a) Ref: 23/504094/TCA

Address: Bluebells Short Break Unit The Street Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JT

Proposal: Conservation area application - T1, Sycamore , Raise branches to 5.2 metres from ground level back to the main trunk. T2, Sycamore , Raise branches to 5.2 Meters from ground level back to the main trunk.

Councillors considered the application and raised no objections to the proposal.

#### b) Ref: 23/504115/FULL

Address: Wealden Hall Pilgrims Way Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JY

Proposal: Demolition of conservatory and removal of chimney. Erection of single storey rear extension. (Part retrospective).

Councillors considered the application.

Cllr Thompson **PROPOSED** the application be referred to Committee to check if the size and massing of the extension falls within the Residential Extension Supplementary Guidance; **SECONDED** by Cllr Evernden: **3- FOR; 1 NON-VOTING; MOTION CARRIED.**

#### c) Ref: 23/504131/LAWPRO

Address: Wealden Hall Pilgrims Way Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JY

Proposal: Lawful Development Certificate for proposed conversion of roofspace into habitable accommodation, including the installation of an internal staircase and 9no. rooflights.

Councillors considered the application and agreed to write to the Planning Officer to state the Council thinks that a Lawful Development Certificate should not be allowed so that residents can comment and that the application should go to Committee.

d) Ref: 23/504139/FULL

Address: Wealden Hall Pilgrims Way Detling Maidstone Kent ME14 3JY

Proposal: Erection of open sided front entrance porch.

Councillors considered the application and had no objections to the proposal.

### **2023/99- Highways**

a) To receive an update

Road closures are published on the website.

b) To appoint a Highways & Transportation Working Group

Cllr English **PROPOSED** to appoint Mr Stephen James and Mrs Laura Maclaren to the Highways & Transportation Working Group

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** to appoint Cllr English and Cllr Thompson to the Highways & Transportation Working Group.

### **2023/100- Open Spaces**

a) Monks Meadow -To receive an update

Cllr Evernden reported that some fence stakes are needed as some of the posts are rotting, the fence will be repaired by a volunteer.

b) Horish Woods- to receive an update

A meeting with volunteers is being arranged.

c) To consider request from professional dog walkers to remove the ban on using Monks Meadow and Horish Woods

Cllr English said there has been a request from professional dog walkers to remove the ban on using Monks Meadow and Horish Woods. Cllr Springett has sought advice from the Community Protection Team. Maidstone Borough Council has concluded its consultation on the Public Space Protection Order and the Parish Council can have a Public Space Protection Order sign which covers dog control. The Community Protection Team will patrol the area.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** that the ban on professional dog walkers using Monks Meadow and Horish Woods be confirmed, there be the addition of Public Space Protection Order signs and an explanation published; **SECONDED** by Cllr Evernden: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

d) Play area- to receive an update

e) To consider quotations for play area repairs

It was **AGREED** for Councillors to make a site visit with Mr Taylor to the play area to discuss the ROSPA report and issues raised.

*ACTION: Clerk to resend report and arrange meeting.*

f) To consider quotations for tree work at the Playing Field

Councillors considered the quotations.

Cllr English **PROPOSED** accepting the quotation of £1,030 from Maidstone Tree Surgeons; **SECONDED** by Cllr Thompson: **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY**.

The Council will look at possibly planting replacement beech trees.

### **2023/101- Kent County Showground**

It was **AGREED UNANIMOUSLY** that Cllr English, Cllr Evernden and Cllr Thompson be on a liaison group with Kent County Showground

**2023/102- Princes Way Alley**

Cllr English reported that there was no significant update and that the matter is with KCC Public Rights of Way.

**2023/103- Financial Matters:**

a) Finance report

Cllr Thompson said the finances were in a good state of health.

b) Invoices for payment

<b>c) Cheque no</b>	<b>Payee</b>	<b>Reason</b>	<b>Nett</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Total</b>
500053	DCK Payroll Solutions Ltd	Payroll- September	30.00	6.00	<b>£36.00</b>
500054	KALC	Chairmanship Conference	70.00	14.00	<b>£84.00</b>
500055	Administration	Expenses			<b>£66.35</b>
500056-7	Staff	Salary, PAYE & NI			

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

Cllr Evernden said the old finger post sign Broader Lane junction with Scragged Oak Road is in need of refurbishment; KCC Highways asked if they could replace it with a new sign but the Parish Council agreed to refurbish it. Help is needed to carry out the work.

*ACTION: Item for Newsletter.*

**2023/104- Date of Next Meeting – Tuesday 7 November 2023**

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 9.20 pm

Signed as a true record of the meeting:

Chairman

Date: 7 November 2023