

**Minutes of a meeting of Full Council
held on Tuesday 23rd July 2019 at 7:15 pm
at the Cricket Pavilion, Meopham Green**

Present: Cllrs Buchanan, (Chairman), D Bramer, M Bramer, S Gofton, P Luxford, G Madgwick (from 7.30pm), M Mulheran, J McTavish, J Ogden and B Wade

In attendance: County Councillor B Sweetland, Borough Councillors G Harding, D Tiran and F Wardle Community Warden M Cason, (all from 7.30pm) Mrs S Eggesden (Clerk),

Item 1: Apologies for absence

C.59 There were apologies from Cllr Rose (prior engagement), Borough Cllr Aslam and PCSO R King

Item 2: To receive/note the receipt of Declaration of Acceptance of Office forms from co-opted councillors

Cllr Gofton arrived.

C.60 Receipt of declaration of acceptance of office forms from Cllrs Mulheran and Rose were confirmed. Cllr Innes' form had not been received although Cllr Wade confirmed she had witnessed and signed it. Cllr M Bramer proposed that Cllr Innes form should be returned and noted by the 16/0819. This was seconded by Cllr Luxford and all voted in favour.

Action: Clerk

The Chairman reminded some members that their DPI's needed to be completed and returned to Gravesham Borough Council.

Item 3: Declarations of Interest

C.61 There were no declarations

CLOSED SESSION

Pursuant to Section 1(2) of the Public Bodies (Admission to Meetings) Act 1960, that due to the confidential nature of the next item, the public and press will be asked to leave the meeting

C.62 Cllr M Bramer proposed going into closed session. This was seconded by Cllr Ogden and all voted in favour.

Item 4: Councillor vacancy to be filled by co-option: - To ratify the recommendation from the Interview Panel

C.63 The Interview Panel recommended co-opting Mr Gordon Madgwick to the Camer and Meopham Green Ward. Cllr Buchanan provided members with details on Mr Madgwick. Cllr Ogden then proposed approval of the recommendation and this was seconded by Cllr McTavish. All voted in favour.

Gordon Madgwick was invited to join the meeting and duly signed the declaration of acceptance of office form.

The meeting then re-opened to members of public at 7:30pm

Item 5: To approve minutes of the previous meetings: - (14.05.19, 21.05.19 and 18.06.19)

C.64 The minutes of 14.05.19 were approved as a true and correct record on a proposal by Cllr M Bramer and seconded by Cllr Ogden. There were 8 votes in favour.

C.65 The minutes of meeting on 21.05.19 were approved as a true and correct record on a proposal by Cllr M Bramer and seconded by Cllr Wade. There were 8 votes in favour.

C.66 The minutes of meeting on 18.06.19 were approved as a true and correct record on a proposal by Cllr Wade and seconded by Cllr M Bramer. There were 7 votes in favour and 1 abstention.

C.67 Cllrs Madgwick and Mulheran did not take part in the voting on the above as they were not co-opted until after the above meetings.

Item 6 To consider any matters arising from the above Minutes

C.68 Minutes dated 14.05.19, P3 C18 – Cllr Ogden asked if the quorum for committees would now be increased? It was agreed to take this to the next A&R meeting for consideration as this was not an agenda item.

Action: Clerk

Item 7: To receive reports from:-

7.1 County Councillors

C.69 Cllr Sweetland reported: -

Recent flooding on the unadopted roads in Culverstone Valley: -

- KCC had provided 400 tonnes of plainings to the worst affected roads; Rhododendron Avenue, Valley Drive and Willow Walk. All the gullies and drains in the area had been checked by KCC. Residents have formed a 'Valley Group' which recently held a public meeting. There were about 100 attendees, who were encouraged to send letter to Paul Carter, KCC Leader. Cllr Sweetland is trying to get Paul Carter and the Director of Highways to visit the area and to look at ways flooding can be prevented in the future. The roads could be adopted but this is an expensive option for residents.

Cllr M Bramer stated that this issue had been developing for over 30 years now. This should have an impact on future planning applications in this area and this is something that GBC should take into consideration. Cllr Luxford also raised concerns with an application in Heron Hill where woodland was pulled out and KCC PROW gave permission to the applicant to resurface Heron Hill Lane if they got planning permission. The loss of woodland here could have an impact on flooding in the area.

Fly-tipping in the rural areas: -

- Cllr Sweetland has spoken with Matthew Scott, Police Commissioner for Kent, on this issue. The Police have obtained some convictions on criminal activity as a result of fly-tipping such as false registration plates, stolen vehicles and drink driving.

Local Tip: -

- Pepperhill tip is due to close for 9/10 weeks to repair the roof.
- KCC has recently introduced charges for residents disposing of rubble at its tips. It has also paid Medway Council to enable KCC residents to continue to use Medway tips.

Cllr Luxford asked if Cllr Sweetland could point her in the direction of the person who is co-ordinating the construction work for the Bean Interchange, Lower Thames Crossing and Ebbsfleet construction traffic. Cllr Sweetland advised it would be Highway's England, not KCC.

Cllr Sweetland left at 7.55pm.

7.2 Borough Councillors

C.70

Cllr Tiran reported on:-

- Overview Scrutiny Committee is reviewing fly-tipping. Cllr Steve Thompson is heading this review which will be completed in spring.
- There is a review of the maritime strategy, headed up by Cllr Jordan Meade. There will be a meeting at GBC on 19.09.19 at 7.30pm

- There is anticipation that the labour element of the council will move ahead with the Local Plan in the next few months
- Cllr Tiran would support looking at any issues where trees are being removed where there is a potential flooding issue

Cllr Wardle reported on:-

- GBC have declared a climate emergency, to become carbon neutral by 2030. Cllr Diane Marsh is heading this. The conservative representation abstained from voting on this as they did not think it was feasible by 2030 as without the presentation of any viability report. A group has been set up to look at viability report by 2020
- He has received emails and phone calls regarding nitrous oxide canisters being found in the parish in various locations
- Pitfield Drive double yellow lines – he has received complaints about the length of the new double yellow lines here. He has spoken with Cllr Sweetland on this and to reverse any decision has to go through the whole process again.

Cllr Luxford asked if the carbon neutral group will liaise with the Local Plan group? Cllr Wardle stated that all groups should liaise together.

Cllr Harding reported on:-

- Discussions with CI Neil Loudon on people taking photos of illegally parked cars and posting these on social media. If photos are sent to the PCSO, they can be passed onto the relevant Police Department for further action.

Cllr D Bramer asked if this applied to parking in bus stops as there is an issue at the Culverstone bus stop at Ridley Turning. Cllr Harding didn't know as he had only asked regarding double yellow line. Cllr Wardle offered to speak to Nick May at GBC on this issue.

- Mentioned the Country Eye app. Members had all heard of this.

7.3 PCSO

C.71 A written report had been received earlier in the month.

7.4 Community Warden

C.72 CW Mandy Cason reported on:

- Recent referrals to KF&RS and NHW schemes
- Attendance at the various groups coffee mornings including the Memory Café, Chinnery Court and community talk time at Meopham Library

- She will attend the next litter pick and picnic on the green event
- She has attended MPC's Parking Working Group
- Reported litter issues and abandoned vehicles
- Various forthcoming events in the local area which will be attending – details passed to the Clerk for publication on MPC's website
- MacMillan coffee morning in September where Community Warden Jackie Fuller is having her head shaved for charity

Cllr Wade reported on finding nitrous oxide canisters behind the cricket pavilion and at Judson's recreation ground in the last couple of days, which MPC will report to the police.

Cllr McTavish reported that numerous complaints regarding fly-tipping in Copthall Road on the boundary of the parish have been reported.

Borough Cllrs Harding, Tiran and Wardle left the meeting at 8.20pm

Item 8: Public Session – Questions from the Public

C.73 No members of public present.

Item 9: Standing Committees and Committees: - To note the minutes and consider any recommendations

9.1 Environment & Amenities Committee Meeting: 04.06.19

C.74 Noted

9.1.1 Memorial Bench: - To note the request from a resident for a memorial bench on Meopham Green and to consider approval

C.75 Discussion took place regarding possible bench locations. Cllr McTavish proposed approval of a bench to be sited next to the Giles bench on the side green as this was a popular location for viewing cricket. This was seconded by Cllr Luxford and all voted in favour.

Action: Clerk

9.2 Administration and Resources Committee: to note the meeting was cancelled due to insufficient business

C.76 Noted.

9.3 Planning & Projects Committee: 04.06.19

C.77 Noted

9.3.1 VE Day Commemorations: - To consider holding an event in the parish

- C.78** Following discussions at P&P, it was agreed to bring this to Full Council for further discussion. It was proposed to hold a VE Day event next year instead of Picnic on the Green. Some councillors raised objections to dropping the picnic event, as at this stage it was not known what type of event to propose holding so Cllr McTavish suggested that she drafts a letter to village organisations to see if they are interested and to take it from there. Cllr Madgwick proposed Cllr McTavish send a letter to village organisations to gauge interest and this was seconded by Cllr Luxford. All voted in favour.

Action: Cllr McTavish

9.3.2 Telephone Kiosk at the Railway station:- on the recommendation of the P&P Committee, to consider approving the adoption of the telephone kiosk for the siting of a defibrillator

- C.79** Cllr McTavish explained that British Heart Foundation will pay £600 towards the defibrillator and provide training. The Clerical Assistant had been liaising with BT regarding MPC taking on the telephone box at the station which could house the new defibrillator and cabinet. Some councillors raised concern in respect of vandalism here. There was concern about what would happen if the vandalism occurs several times here and what would happen to the kiosk but members agreed it was worth pursuing. Cllr Ogden then proposed approving the adoption of the telephone kiosk and this was seconded by Cllr D Bramer. There were 9 votes in favour and 1 against.

Action: Clerk

9.3.3 Anti-Social Behaviour: - To consider the reports received recently on anti-social behaviour in the parish, particularly in relation to silver canisters found in public places and to agree that a public meeting should be held to discuss Anti-Social Behaviour matters in the Parish

- C.80** Cllr McTavish reported that this agenda item rose out of concern from correspondence received from a few residents. There was a suggestion to set up a working group which was discussed at P&P and it was felt that the level of crime was very low in Meopham. Cllr McTavish thought it would be a good idea to hold a public meeting and look to produce a strategy on how to deal with anti-social behaviour. Following discussion, as members were not in favour on this, Cllr McTavish withdrew her motion.

9.3.4 Parking and Traffic Working Group: - to note the minutes

C.81 Noted.

9.5 Judson’s Pavilion Committee: - 10.07.19

C.82 Minutes were noted. Cllr Ogden updated members on recent issues. We were now waiting for final information from the Project Manager concerning the build.

9.6 Personnel Committee: - 22.07.19

C.83 Minutes noted from 29.04.19 and 17.06.19.

9.6.1 on a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to approve a policy for compassionate leave

C.84 A draft interim policy had been circulated to members. Cllr D Bramer proposed approval and this was seconded by Cllr Mulheran. All voted in favour.

M Cason left at 9pm.

Item 10: Parish Council representatives on external bodies: To receive and note reports

C.85 The following reports were received: -

- Campaign to Protect Rural England (CPRE) – Cllr Luxford reported that she had attended the stand at the Detling County show and everyone was speaking about the volume of building in the area
- Gravesham Joint Transportation Board – Cllr Ogden confirmed that he is happy to attend a meeting if there is an item of importance to MPC on the agenda
- Harvel Village Hall Management Committee – Cllr Luxford had attended the Harvel Fete in June. Approximately £2500 had been raised which will be used to renovate the toilets at the hall
- Kent Association of Local Councils (KALC) – Cllrs Buchanan and Ogden had attended a meeting in June. Minutes will be circulated once received.
- Lower Thames Crossing Association – Cllr Luxford attended on behalf of CPRE a Highways England meeting on the Bean Interchange. She has asked the question on how they will co-ordinate the work on this. Highway’s England have put the responses to the consultation on their website
- Meopham Sports & Leisure Association – Cllr Wade had not attended a meeting but reported that there are currently issues with the lease
- Meopham Welfare Committee – Cllr Ogden had attended their AGM. They are happy with the interim arrangements for the bus while the Judson’s build is going on. They are also starting to think about looking for a new bus

Item 11 **Financial Matters: -**

11.1 To note Meopham Parish Council's Income and expenditure up to the 12.07.18

C.87 Noted

11.2 To approve the schedule of payments in accordance with Financial Standing Order 5.2

C.88 Cllr Ogden queried why Gravesham Borough Council had charged MPC for election costs when there was not an election. Cllr M Bramer advised that GBC had notified that there would be a charge this year for all the parishes in Gravesham, even if an election did not take place, to cover for costs associated with a potential election. Cllr Ogden then proposed approval of the schedule of payments in appendix 1. This was seconded by Cllr M Bramer and all voted in favour.

Item 12: **To note the correspondence received**

C.89 Noted.

Item 13: **Chairman's announcements**

C.90 The Chairman reported on the following:-

- Scheduled litter pick on 27.07.19
- Picnic on the Green on 11.08.19

It was agreed to not move into closed session for the next item

Item 14: **Contract: - Electricity Contract for the Pitfield Green Toilets: to approve a contractor as the current contract ends on 31.07.19**

C.91 Cllr Buchanan proposed delegating to the clerk to select a contractor in consultation with the A&R Chairman. This was seconded by Cllr Ogden and all voted in favour

Action: Clerk

The meeting closed at 9.20pm