

WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

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MINUTES 163

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Minutes of the Ordinary Parish Council meeting held in the Memorial Hall Annexe, Woodchurch, on Thursday 25 July 2019 at 7.00 pm

PRESENT: Mr J West, (Chair), Mrs G Davies, Mr A Faiers, Mr A Hukins, Mr N Jones, Mr W Nash, and Mr P Wood

PARISH CLERK: Mrs J Batt

BOROUGH COUNCILLOR: Mr D Ledger (arrived 8.00 pm)

COUNTY COUNCILLOR: Mr M Angell

MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC: There were 2 members of the Public present.

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

An Apology for Absence was received from Mrs C Silcock (prior engagement) and Borough Councillor Mr G Sparks.

2. APPROVAL OF REASONS FOR ABSENCE

Resolution: Councillors unanimously agreed Mrs Silcock's Reason for Absence.

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Declarations of Pecuniary Interest

Mrs Davies declared a Pecuniary Interest in Planning Application No 19/00982/AS and 19/01006/AS as she is the applicant. Mrs Davies left the room while the applications were discussed.

Declarations of Significant Interest

There were no Declarations of Significant Interest.

Updating of Declarations of Interest for the Code of Conduct

Councillors are reminded that they should update their Declarations of Interest with the Monitoring Officer if necessary.

To note the granting of any requests for Dispensations and the Decision

No such requests received.

4. CO-OPTION OF PARISH COUNCILLOR

An application to join the Parish Council has been received from Mr Alan Baker. Mr Baker was unable to attend the meeting due to a prior commitment but confirmed that he is eligible to stand for the position of Councillor. Councillors agreed to the following:

Resolution: Mr Jones proposed Mr Alan Baker for the vacant position of Parish Councillor, seconded by Mr Wood. Unanimous.

The Clerk will forward the relevant forms to Mr Baker for him to complete as required.

5. **ACCEPTANCE OF MINUTES**

The Minutes of the meeting held on 25 June 2019 were accepted and it was unanimously agreed that Mr West should sign them as a true record of the meeting.

Proposed Mr Hukins Seconded Mr Wood

6. **MEETING ADJOURNED FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND RECOVERED**

The meeting was adjourned from 7.06 to 7.31 during which time County Councillor Angell updated Councillors on the issues with investments currently being experienced by KCC. He assured Councillors that the money does not affect front line services and it is less than 4% of the Pension Fund. Members are in consultation with the company concerned.

Councillor Angell brought Councillors attention to Plan Bee and suggested they look on KCC's website. There is a desperate shortage of pollinators and he asked the members of the Parish Council to encourage residents to look after these insects. Many people who have brought new homes are purchasing short lived plants for their gardens which do not have the pollen required by the bees.

Mr Angell explained that he wants to work with each Parish Council regarding highway issues and asked the members of the Council to complete the Highways Plan and arrange a meeting with him to discuss the way forward.

KCC has been waiting to deal with the issues included in the White Paper on Adult Social Care. It appears that the Prime Minister told the Cabinet Member that it has got to be actioned and there will be money to fund the care needed. There is now much more emphasis on older people.

A councillor asked why the roundabout at Sevington isn't open to traffic. Councillor Angell reported that it was not being opened for health and safety reasons. Traffic lights are to be put in at the junction from the retail park onto the main road.

Kent County Council has written a very strong letter to the Secretary of State regarding Operation Brock. There have been a lot of accidents on the road and KCC has asked for one of the lanes to be used for HGVs.

Although the speed limit is going to be increased from 50-60 mph, the barriers are to stay in place until 31 October, possibly longer if there is a no deal Brexit.

Highways England is concerned that the side edges of the motorway might start cracking under the weight of the lorries.

Mr West thanked Councillor Angell for attending and he left at this point.

Mr Stafford thanked the Parish Council for the tremendous support given to Woodchurch in Bloom. The projects approved by the Council have given the village an uplift.

Mr Jones informed those present that Mr Sparks had taken up the concerns raised regarding the Lower Road development.

7. **PLANNING**

Please see attached list.

Discussion regarding any other planning issues within the Parish

No items put forward for discussion.

8. **VILLAGE MATTERS**

Amendment to Agenda - Extension of Village Green – Transfer of Land

The Clerk reported that we have received confirmation that the transfer of the land at Lower Road from Mr T D Bourne has now been completed and we have the Registered Title.

Churchyard

Mr Jones reported that it is now easier to maintain the churchyard.

A barbecue is being held to try and raise funds for fuel and to try and encourage new members so that the work can be spread amongst more people during the year.

Information Boards

We are still waiting for the remaining 2 boards to be installed.

Community Calendar

The service is being extended to allow people to book the minibus via the calendar.

What's on in Woodchurch Notice Boards

Nothing to report.

Future of Village Pub

The Bonny Cravat has now changed hands.

This item is to be removed from future agenda

Future of the Woodchurch Hub

The Hub has been open from 10 – 4 daily since the beginning of July.

The Hub is starting to sell trinkets made by local people and is part of a local Tourist Information group. Volunteers are getting very positive feedback and people are aware that the Hub exists and of the services it provides.

A sign is shortly to be put up on the apex.

Beacon

It was suggested that the beacon should be sited in the middle of The Green opposite the White House.

Power to the Green

Remove from future agendas.

Stoney Lane

Mr Jones is meeting with Mr Pilcher and will discuss this with him and report back.

A complaint has been received regarding the condition of the grassed area of the path. Mr West explained the situation to the gentleman concerned.

Woodchurch 10- & 5- mile Sunday 22 September 2019

Councillors agreed to this request but the organisers will be asked to ensure no cars are driven on The Green and that it is left clean and tidy.

Damaged Swing

Mr Wood reported that the infant swing seat has been damaged and he has removed it.

Resolution: Councillors unanimously agreed to give Mr Wood permission to order any replacement equipment he considered necessary for the play area without first having to gain the consent of other councillors.

9. MATTERS ARISING

Mr Jones asked Mr Ledger for an update on the Lower Road application. He has been assured that the application is not for the whole site.

The Clerk was asked to write to Woodchurch Primary School and thank them for leaving The Green clean and tidy after the Fete.

Following comments by a member of the Council it was suggested that the possibility of the School donating a percentage of the profits from Village events to the Village should be raised at the next meeting.

Councillors unanimously agreed that the Clerk should email the bank details to the lady who runs the exercise class on The Green.

Mr Jones met with the owner of Drayson House who confirmed that the proposed lights are predominantly down lighters.

10. ACCOUNTS AND OTHER GENERAL COUNCIL BUSINESS**Bank Reconciliation as at last Bank Statement**

Account Balance		Balance at Bank	
Opening Balance	45925.04	Money Manager Account	57122.79
		Plus uncleared receipts	0.00
			57122.79
Plus Receipts	<u>15057.10</u>	Less uncleared cheques	<u>5893.43</u>
	60982.14		51229.36
Less Payments	<u>9702.78</u>	Plus Community Account	50.00
	51279.36		51279.36
Less Earmarked Funds	<u>30328.62</u>	Less Earmarked Funds	<u>30328.62</u>
AVAILABLE FUNDS	20950.74	AVAILABLE FUNDS	20950.74

Accounts to be Paid

PAYEE	CHQ NO	NET £	VAT £	GROSS £	DETAILS
Parish Clerk	1228	531.36		531.36	Salary and Expenses
Litter Picker	1229	385.26		385.26	Salary
Adrian Boon	1230	272.00	54.40	326.40	Supply one Notice Board
Satswana	1231	150.00	30.00	180.00	DPO Services 2019/2020
D Grabham	1232	210.00		210.00	Green Maintenance

Proposed Mr Jones

Seconded Mr Wood

Earmarked Funds

	Balance
	16.05.19
Election/Standards Committee	3609.24
Wildflower Meadow	7795.00
Contingencies	2300.00
Maintenance of War Memorial	563.02
Play Area/CEE	-78.38
Maintenance of Village Trees	1310.00
General Reserves	14829.74
	30328.62

Proposal to set up Direct Debit to the Information Commissioners Office

Resolution: Councillors unanimously agreed to set up a Direct Debit and the form was completed.

Proposed Mr West

Seconded Mr Faiers

Website, Newsletter and Transparency

The website is being developed at the moment.

The newsletter is ready to go to the printers.

Risk Assessment

A risk assessment will be completed in September.

Update on KALC Meeting

Certain areas of Maidstone have become no go areas for HGVs.

A lot of villages are complaining about the speed of traffic on their roads.

Wye Parish Council is trying to arrange for developers looking to build in a village to have a pre application meeting with the Parish Council prior to submitting a planning application. There will be a box on the application that the developer will have to tick to show the Planning Officer that they have had this meeting.

ABC is looking to review the Service Level Agreement which was drawn up in 2009 and should have been reviewed a couple of years later.

Data Protection

This matter continues to be monitored by Councillors.

Renovation of Benches

Mr Jarvis has painted most of the benches.

Woodchurch in Bloom

A complaint has been received about the height of the grass on the triangle as a resident nearly had an accident as she couldn't see over it.

The members of Woodchurch in Bloom are planning to cut the grass down to a level that will allow drivers to see over it.

Community Transport Scheme

Preparations are in hand for the launch of the minibus and the Hub on Sunday 4 August. Jan Francis and the children from the school, who will be in uniform, are to cut the ribbon. A press release has been prepared and sent to the paper and BBC South East. The Mayor will be attending and invitations have been sent to Councillors Clarkson, Gideon and Kerley and Damian Green MP. The memorial hall is going to prepare refreshments and flyers will be delivered to houses in the village next week.

Bookings are coming in already.

To date we have 21 volunteer drivers and 16 have already completed their Blue Lamp Training.

Those driving for their own club or society don't need Blue Lamp Training.

Mr Jones circulated the draft contract between ABC and Woodchurch Parish Council to all councillors present.

It was agreed to hatch out a parking area for the bus on the car park.

Proposal to Purchase a Climbing Frame for the Play Area – on agenda in error

The Clerk was asked to write to the lady who requested the climbing frame and explain why we are unable to install one on the play area.

Adoption of 2017-2018 Externally Audited Accounts

It was pointed out in the last Internal Audit Report that we had not adopted the Externally Audited Accounts for 2017-2018.

Resolution: Councillors unanimously agreed to adopt the Externally Audited Accounts which had been received back from PKF Littlejohn with no Matters Arising.

Proposed Mr West

Seconded Mr Wood

11. CORRESPONDENCE/EMAIL CORRESPONDENCE

Correspondence

Clerk and Councils Direct
Creative Play

Email Correspondence – all forwarded to all Councillors

Mrs Bird re Brattle Bus Shelter – the Clerk was asked to reply and say that Councillors consider the bus shelter to be fit for purpose. It would be expensive to knock it down and replace it, but Councillors would welcome any suggestions Mrs Bird might have to improve its appearance. It has been suggested that Woodchurch in Bloom could plant some flowers around the shelter and the members of the group would welcome suggestions as to the colour scheme.

Dr Silcock, chair FOWSA – Report on recent Summer Fete – The Clerk read the report.

12. HIGHWAY ISSUES

No items were put forward to be reported to KHS.

13. ITEMS FOR INCLUSION ON NEXT AGENDA

No items were put forward for inclusion.

14. FORUM FOR EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BETWEEN COUNCILLORS

Mr Nash reported that Speedwatch has started in the Village. Councillor Ledger suggested that Woodchurch and Shadoxhurst could discuss linking their Speedwatch programmes together.

As a number of cars have been damaged on the Memorial Hall car park it has been suggested that we invest in a CCTV camera.

Mr Nash is investigating the implications with regard to Data Protection.

Following on from the discussion regarding bees during the Public Interval, a question was asked as to whether we could put some bee hives on The Green, but this was not considered to be something that we could do for health and safety reasons.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 8.32 pm.

Signed..... Dated
Chairman

WOODCHURCH PARISH COUNCIL

PLANNING APPLICATION RECORD

2019

JULY 2019

- 19/00913/AS Little Vale, Bethersden Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3QW
Removal of existing outbuilding and erection of proposed detached garage with home office / hobby room above
Parish Council: Support
- 19/00918/AS Willow Barn, Cherry Gardens, Brook Street, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3TA
Building alterations and repairs to include replacement floating flooring; removal of partitions and step; internal lighting installation; replacement gate (retrospective)
Parish Council: Support
- 19/00966/AS 2 Stonebridge Cottages, Front Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3SL
Erection of a part two storey/part single storey side extension and paving of front garden to form parking area.
Parish Council: Support
- 19/00982/AS 34-36 Front Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3QE
Variation of conditions 2 & 4 on planning permission 12/00717/AS to allow additional living accommodation and remove restrictive holiday let use
Parish Council: Support
- 19/01000/AS Woodend Lodge, Woodend, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3QU
Demolition of garage and erection of two storey replacement side extension; extension to front
Parish Council: Support

The following was not received in time to be included on the agenda, but Councillors agreed to discuss as it was not considered to be contentious.

- 19/01006/AS 34-36 Front Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3QE
Insertion of window into side elevation
Parish Council: Support

Decision Notices received from ABC

- 18/01136/AS Plurenden Manor Farm, Plurenden Road, High Halden, Ashford, Kent TN26 3JW
Erection of two dairy heifer rearing sheds
Borough Council: Permit

- 18/01575/AS Eleven Acre Shaw, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch, Kent
Demolition of existing storage buildings and removal of residential caravan and erection of two dwellings and a bungalow with carports and landscaping enhancements.
Parish Council: Permit
- 18/01778/AS 34-36 Front Road, Woodchurch, Ashford, TN26 3QE
Changes to window openings within the southern elevation involving like for like replacement of the bay and triple casement windows, the replacement of modern frame and insertion of new high-level window
Borough Council: Grant Consent
- 19/00506/AS Balcony Farm, Haycross Lane, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent TN26 3TF
Prior approval for the change of use of an agricultural building and land within its curtilage to 5 residential dwellings and associated operational development
Borough Council: Prior Approval not Required
- 19/00848/AS **Wayside, Redbrook Street, Woodchurch, Ashford, Kent, TN26 3QR**
Erection of a classic car collection garage and annexe outbuilding
Borough Council: Permit