

# KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Maidstone Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils held via Zoom Conference at 7pm on Monday, 28 September 2021.

**Present:** Councillors: Geraldine Brown (Chairman) Yalding, Peter Coulling (Vice Chairman) Teston, Helen Anderson (Secretary), Alice Williams Barming, Richard Ash Bearsted, Caroline Jessel Boughton Monchelsea, Ivor Davies Boxley, Steve Bowring Bredhurst, Tina Clark Broomfield & Kingswood, Chris Webb Chart Sutton, John Clayton Detling, Anne Marie Butler Downswood, Malcolm Ireland East Sutton, Frederick Stanley Harrietsham, Mike Summersgill Hunton, Bob China Leeds, Velma Bennett Loose, Kate Tippen Marden, Eve Poulter Sutton Valence, Chris Douglass Teston, Tony Hemsted Tovil, Martin Moy West Farleigh and Dee Ann Stead Yalding. Peter Titchener (Audit, Governance & Standards Committee Rep).

**Guests:** None were present.

1. **Apologies for absence.** Councillors from Boughton Malherbe and Staplehurst, John Wilson East Farleigh Carole Wright Langley and John Perry, Maidstone Borough Council.
2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the 26 July 2021 meeting were taken as read, confirmed as a correct record. These will be signed at the next available meeting held in person.
3. **Matters arising from previous minutes.** No items were raised.
4. **Executive Committee** - The draft minutes of the Executive Committee held on 17 July 2021 have been circulated to members. The next meeting will be in October.
5. **Police.**

**5.1 Redeployment of PCSO's** It has been announced that the reshuffle of PCSO's has been deferred indefinitely.

**5.2 Ward Cluster Meetings with CSU** Only one parish present noted that they had attended a meeting held in September. Cllr Brown will contact Martin Jaynes of MBC to see whether contact has been made with Parish Council clerks regarding meeting dates.

## 6. Maidstone Borough Council Matters

**6.1 Parish Charter** – Revisions will be circulated for the November meeting.

**6.2 Parish Services Scheme** – Formal confirmation is still being sought from MBC to the verbal understanding at a recent Parish Liaison meeting, that the scheme would increase annually by the percentage increase in Council Tax.

**6.3 Model Code of Conduct** – A draft document appears to be currently still with Kent County Council. It was generally felt that there requires a need for more accountability and less anonymity when wrong doings by Councillors are upheld by the Monitoring Officer. It was also generally felt that the Model should also be in line with statutory law, such as equality, age discrimination etc. It was agreed to write to KCC and NALC to press raise this issue as well as seeking an urgent copy of the draft code.

## 6.4 Local Plan Review

**6.4.1 Regulation 19 Consultation** – The consultation document has now been published, which can be found on the following link:-

[https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/primary-areas/your-councillors?sq\\_content\\_src=%2BdXJsPWh0dHBzJTNBjTJGJTJGbwVldGluZ3MubWFpZHN0b25lLmdvdi51ayUyRmlITGlzdERvY3VtZW50cy5hc3B4JTNGQ0lkJTNEjUyJTl2TUIkJTNEbY5OSZhbGw9MQ%3D%3D](https://maidstone.gov.uk/home/primary-services/council-and-democracy/primary-areas/your-councillors?sq_content_src=%2BdXJsPWh0dHBzJTNBjTJGJTJGbwVldGluZ3MubWFpZHN0b25lLmdvdi51ayUyRmlITGlzdERvY3VtZW50cy5hc3B4JTNGQ0lkJTNEjUyJTl2TUIkJTNEbY5OSZhbGw9MQ%3D%3D)

This is being considered by the Strategic Planning and Infrastructure Committee on 4 October 2021 and the Full Council on 6 October 2021.

**6.5 Planning Enforcement Update** – Steve Whitehead has joined the enforcement team on a temporary basis to help clear the backlog. At the meeting, some councils noted that they had already been contacted by Steve and were extremely impressed with his ‘can do’ attitude to tackling their current live cases.

**6.6 Planning Applications** – Feedback is required from Parish Councils on whether they would still wish to receive paper copies of planning applications (**Nb:** large planning applications will still be paper). Please email [maidstonekalc@gmail.com](mailto:maidstonekalc@gmail.com) with your thoughts.

7. **Covid-19 Update** - Rates continue to be monitored across the Borough with rates of infection varying. Maidstone Borough Council are hosting entertainment events at weekends (i.e bands playing in Brenchley Gardens) to attract visitors to the town. It was noted that there are lots of empty shop premises still.
8. **Report of the River Medway (Flood Relief) Act 1976 Public Inquiry** – A decision remains pending.
9. **Date of Next Meetings** – All meeting for the foreseeable future will remain via Zoom. The next meeting will be on Monday 29 November, 31 January 2022 (with MBC in attendance) and 28 March 2022.

*If there are any items that you wish to be included on an agenda, then please email [maidstonekalc@gmail.com](mailto:maidstonekalc@gmail.com).*

*If there are any items that you wish to be included at a MBC Parish Liaison Meeting, then please email [chairman@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk](mailto:chairman@yaldingparishcouncil.gov.uk)*

10. **Any Other Business** – It was noted that KALC are looking at Limited Company status in order to limit their liability.

Meeting Closed at 8.25pm

Helen Anderson  
Secretary KALC Maidstone Area Committee

