

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Neighbourhood Centre, Minster

on 7th September 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Mrs. Gimes (Chairman), Jones, Crow-Brown, Burden, Day, Quittenden, Torbett, McCarthy, Mills, Owen

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council)

94. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

PCSO Forsyth, Community Warden Aylett

95. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 6th July 2021 be approved.

RESOLVED: That the amended Minutes of the Extraordinary Council meeting held on 17th August be approved.

96. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests noted.

97. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

Community Warden Aylett was not present but provided a report, read out by the Chairman as follows:

- A quiet month as was on annual leave for a period during the month.
- No reports from the skatepark.
- Social services visits undertaken.
- Evidence of rogue traders in the area.
- Visited with the new manager at Rivers Court
- Fly-tipping incidents have seen an increase recently.
- Upgraded phone to be received shortly, this will make responding to messages / other communication easier.

Community Warden Aylett passed on his thanks to Adrian and Neil, the parish groundsmen who assisted with the removal of some fly-tipping that TDC had been unable to help with.

A reminder was given that parking issues should be reported to TDC as he has no enforcement powers.

PCSO Forsyth was not present as she was on annual leave. She had emailed to report that flytipping had increased along the top road and that she was pleased to see the Royal British Legion Club had reopened as it is a vital community hub.

98. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows;

- A trial is being carried out for the use of drones to find and assess damage to the county's roads. Kent Live Labs are conducting test flights in the next few months. The first phase, conducted at the Kent Showground car-park in Detling spotted potholes, tarmac conditions, trees and street lighting. Subject to the success of the trial, KCC will be able to make use of the drones to monitor the roads remotely without the need for road closures.
- The possibility of a safe cycle route from Minster to the new Parkway rail-station at Cliffsend, possibly via Durlock, Sevenscore and St Augustines Cross, is being discussed.
- Recently contacted KCC Highways following a complaint by a resident about the poor state of the surface of St Mildreds Road. Unfortunately this is not a priority on KCC's repair programme but is include on our Highways Improvement Plan.
- Attended a planning committee meeting to discuss the Sturry Link Road that has been given approval and will be the major link between the A28 and A291 Sturry Hill, relieving congestion in this area. Approximately 1200 vehicles use the Sturry level crossing every hour and with additional homes being built there are fears the existing infrastructure will not cope.

Cllr Pugh reported as follows;

- Great news about the Sturry bypass.
- Canterbury have not been able to build enough houses to fulfil their requirement to quantify funding, therefore it is hoped that some housing allocated for Thanet could be moved to Canterbury.
- Support is being given to house Afghan families in Thanet with proper support.
- The entrance to the car-park at the end of Prospect Road is poorly maintained and requires clearing as it has become overgrown and inaccessible for residents
- £750K has been allocated for the proposed new skatepark in Margate as part of the Margate Town Deal.
- Issues reported over mud and dirty roads around Thanet.
- Has established a contact at Savills and will set up a meeting to further discuss the possible extension to Minster cemetery.

99. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr. Mrs Gimes reported that the pandemic has resulted in a lack of committee meetings. Meetings for Operations, Highways and Communications will be arranged in the coming weeks.

Thanet Community Land Trust have been contacted about the car-park in St Marys Road. It is still their intention to progress the development of this site but there have been delays due to pollution and they are working with TDC on this.

100. REPORT OF THE CLERK

Nothing to report.

101. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None.

102. PARISH COUNCILLOR VACANCY

Following the resignation of Cllr Fran Kearns, a vacancy has arisen on Minster Parish Council. The required notice of vacancy from Thanet District Council has been advertised. As no response was made by 2nd September the vacancy can now be filled by co-option and an advertisement will be placed.

103. SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

A Highways meeting is scheduled in September in line with a meeting with James Wraight to discuss concerns that the additional lane proposed at the Tothill Street roundabout will not be sufficient and request will be made to redirect money from the section 106 agreement for the land west of Tothill Street provided for improvements at the Spitfire Way junction to make further improvements to the top of Tothill Street to alleviate the congestion problems that will be inevitable from the new development

Riveroak should be responsible for improving the Spitfire Way junction as part of reopening the airport.

104. AGENCY PAYMENT RENEWAL AND TAKING OVER THE HIGH STREET AND MONKTON ROAD CAR PARKS AND PUBLIC TOILET

The Clerk reported that TDC have advised that an invoice for £3400 for the legal work will shortly be sent and this will complete the transfer. An Operations meeting will then be held to discuss any works required at the sites.

105. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR LAND WEST OF TOTHILL STREET OL/TH/18/1488

Planning approval has now been given at this site.

106. PLANS FOR PARISH OFFICE AT THE RECREATION GROUND

The tender process was slightly delayed due to a requirement in our financial regulations to advertise the request for tenders on the GOV.UK Contracts Finder portal. The closing date for tenders is Friday 10th September 2021. A request has been made to those who previously submitted tenders to re-submit their documentation and this will advertise the work more widely to allow other contractors to also submit a tender

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107. INSURANCE RENEWAL

Members were asked to review and ratify the approval of the insurance renewal for the Parish Council for the ensuing year.

RESOLVED: That the insurance quotation be accepted at a cost of £5198.28.

108. SKATEPARK AND BUND

The wildflowers on the bund are growing. A retrospective planning application for the bund has been made to TDC with a closing date of 15th September for representations to be made and a decision expected by 11th October. One recent complaint has been received about anti-social behaviour at the skate-park.

109. HUGOFOX WEBSITE CHANGE/UPDATE

Cllr Owen reported that that current version of the website package will shortly stop supporting the planning tracker that links users to TDC's planning application.

Members considered whether there was a need to upgrade to the silver version of the website package, with additional monthly costs, in order to retain this functionality.

RESOLVED: To remain on the existing bronze package of the website. Current users of the tracker can instead create a hyperlink to the planning area of the TDC website on their laptops.

110. GREEN AGENDA AND PLANTING OF WILDFLOWERS AT ST MARYS CHURCH

Cllr Crow-Brown reported that he had a meeting with Fran Kimmons and Paul Willins at the churchyard to consider areas suitable for wildflower planting. Five areas were considered.

Members were reminded that the Parish Council do not control the church yard, only mow the grass and strim in accordance with our agency payment with Thanet District Council. Therefore, approval would be required by the Parochial Church Council and only if not of concern to our grounds staff for future maintenance.

Cllr Crow Brown reported that we are planting two trees to replace those removed from the skatepark. Further possible sites for tree planting are to be discussed at the next Operations meeting.

111. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Crow-Brown provided an update as follows;

Applications

TH/TPO/5(1991) - 33 Hill House Drive, Minster

G1 Group of sycamores to be crown reduced by 30%

NO OBJECTION

F/TH/21/1277 – 1 Sevenscore Farm Cottages, Ebbsfleet Lane North

Erection of 2 No 3-bed 2 storey, semi detached dwellings

NO OBJECTION

Decisions

F/TH/21/1080 – 28 Greenhill Gardens, Ramsgate

Erection of single storey rear extension including rear landscaping and reducing height of existing patio

GRANTED

R/TH/21/0242 – Land adjacent to Pouces Manston Road

Reserved matters application pursuant to permission OL/TH/18/1348 for the erection of 5 no dwellings for the approval of appearance.

GRANTED

OL/TH/18/1488 – Land on the West Side of Tothill Street, Minster

Outline application for the erection of up to 214 no dwellings, cemetery expansion and associated access with all other matters reserved.

GRANTED

112. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC

Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting was held on 20th July.

Discussion on adopting new proposals to stop long stay camper vans on the seafront from Minnis Bay to Margate.

Sarah Osbourne – new community development officer gave an update on her role and possible funding available. She has since left this role and been replaced.

Tigers at Manston need recruits.

Face to face meetings will continue.

KCC Members grant has been cut to £10K

Collective response from TAC to be sent to TDC on planning issues.

Attended a Rural Regeneration Committee meeting with Cllr Gimes.

Rob Searle is no longer Speedwatch co-ordinator. Recent online event held suggests this scheme is not fit for purpose. More information to follow.

The next meeting will be on the 21st September.

Minster School

A new contact for the school will be established following the resignation of Cllr Kearns.

Twinning Assn.

Cllr Burden reported that a meeting has been held and plans are underway for the Anniversary next May dependant on any travel restrictions.

Two quizzes at the RBL are to be organised before and after Christmas.

The AGM is being held at the pavilion on 12th November 2021.

113. REPORT OF THE RFO

RESOLVED:

- (a) the Bank balance statement be received and noted,
- (b) the statement of Receipts and Payments for the month of July and August 2021 be approved.
- (c) The Annual Audit of Accounts was received and noted. The report is displayed on the notice board and website.

114. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC/ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Mr Harris asked Cllr Pugh if there is any more extra parking being provided in the new estate in St Nicholas. Cllr Pugh responded that this is unlikely.

Mr Harris said that there is still a bollard missing on the verge by the flag pole.

Mrs Harris doesn't think planting wildflower areas in the churchyard is a good idea.

Mrs Quittenden said that the street-cleaner is doing a fantastic job.

Mrs Quittenden reported that there are a number of overhanging hedges in Station Road and Station Approach Road.

Time concluded: 8.30pm

5th October 2021