

KENT ASSOCIATION OF LOCAL COUNCILS

Minutes of the Meeting of the Maidstone Area Committee of the Kent Association of Local Councils held at Maidstone Town Hall, High Street, Maidstone at 7pm on Monday 16 April 2018

Present: Councillors: Geraldine Brown (Chairman) Yalding, Cheryl Taylor Maggio (Vice Chairman) Langley, Helen Anderson (Secretary), Richard Ash Bearsted, Robert Turner and Ron Galton Boughton Malherbe, Bob Hinder Boxley, Steve Lakin Broomfield & Kingswood, John Wilson East Farleigh, Fred Stanley Harrietsham, Nigel Pyman Headcorn, Eve Poulter Sutton Valence, Peter Coulling and Chris Douglass Teston, Peter Titchener Ulcombe.

Apologies. Councillors: Fay Gooch Barming, Pat Marshall Bearsted, Ivor Davies Boxley, John Clayton Detling, Peter Beasley East Farleigh, John Mather Headcorn, Mike Cockett Lenham, Bernard Cresswell Linton, Robin Gardner Otham, Rory Silkin and Tom Burnham Staplehurst, Lorraine Cook Sutton Valence, Fiona Kenward Ulcombe.

2. **Minutes.** The minutes of the 5 February 2018 meeting were taken as read, confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.
3. **Alan Reading of Maidstone Business Networking** Alan Reading gave a short presentation regarding the Maidstone Business Networking Group and the role Parish Councils could play in helping their local businesses to engage with this group.
4. **Matters Arising.** There were no matter arising raised.
5. **Reports from Representatives:**
 - 5.1 **Parish Liaison/MBC Group.** Due to illness this group did not meet and a new meeting date is to be arranged.
 - 5.1.1 **Parish/Police Liaison Group** This group continues to meet on a quarterly basis, however, in future the Neighbourhood Watch element will not take part and only one representative from this organisation will attend.
 - 5.2 **Maidstone Joint Transportation Board** The last two meetings have been cancelled.
6. **Executive Committee Issues** A meeting was held on 14 April and various issues were discussed including responses to the NPPF Government Consultation. Cllr John Wilson updated the Committee on the progress of the project for taking HGV's of single roads in Kent. Positive meetings have been held with Government Ministers at Westminster and also with Mike Whiting at KCC.
7. **General Data Protection Regulation** Councils are reminded that this will come into force on 25 May 2018. A review of data in the way of a checklist should be completed.
8. **Councillor Training Opportunities** Councillors are encouraged to attend training on a regular basis to keep up to speed on new legislation, working practices etc. As a rule of thumb, Chairmen should attend at least the Chairman's Conference annually, whilst Councillors should attend some form of training within each elected period (i.e once every four years). The clerk should be allowed to attend training and should belong to the SLCC.
9. **Update on Air Quality** Peter Coulling gave a brief synopsis of a recent meeting with Dt Stuart Maxwell, working on behalf of MBC on Air Quality in the Borough. A number of key sites within the Borough have special equipment which is sited in areas of known poor air quality and this equipment (diffusion tubes) measure the quantities of Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂) (a source from fuel combustion) and can cause respiratory effects and heart disease symptoms. It was felt that some rural areas may not be covered by this equipment and it would be

possible for Parish Councils if they have an area of concern to consider paying for MBC to monitor this. The rough estimate of cost was £3.50 per tube plus officer's time of £50 per hour). Data from each tube is collected and collated on a monthly basis.

10. Any Other Business

New set of Standing Orders has just been published. These can be viewed on the NALC website. User Name : Kent Member Password: cowic30

A Government Consultation on Unauthorised Gypsy Encampments has been launched, however, it was felt that the remit had not extended to gypsy encampments on private land.

11. Time and date of the next meeting This will be the AGM and held on Monday 11 June 2018 at the Town Hall, Maidstone starting at 7pm.

Meeting Closed at 8.35pm

Helen Anderson
Secretary
KALC Maidstone Area Committee