

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

**Apartment 3, 85 Sea Road,
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Phone: 01843 832243

AGENDA

A Meeting of Acol Parish Council will be held in the Village Hall, Acol, on Monday 24th September 2018 at 6pm to consider the business set out below and to pass such resolutions as may be deemed necessary on those items set out within the Agenda.

1. MINUTES

To approve the minutes of the Meeting held on 9th July and the Special Meeting held on 30th July 2018 (copies attached – Appendix A).

2. APOLOGIES FOR ABENCE

To receive apologies for absence (if any).

3. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

Members are invited to disclose any interest in any of the matters referred to within the Agenda.

4. REPORT OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDEN/PCSO

To receive reports as appropriate.

5. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman will report upon the following matters:

- (i) Crown & Sceptre update
- (ii) Traffic calming
- (iii) Salt bags (for winter use on ice)
- (iv) Meeting of a Council Committee to be arranged to discuss the Transparency Code and Publication Scheme.

6. SOUTHERN WATER

Councillor Inchley will report upon the recent meeting.

7. RECREATION GROUND

Councillor Hayfield will report as appropriate.

8. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk will report upon any urgent matter that may have arisen since the despatch of the Agenda.

9. FINANCIAL MATTERS

- (i) Payments Schedule – A schedule will be tabled at the meeting together with details of the Parish Council's bank balance of £10,367.91; and
- (ii) General – The Clerk to report on any other financial matter as appropriate.

10. REPORT OF COUNCILLORS MS DAWSON (KCC) & CROW-BROWN (TDC)

To receive reports as appropriate.

11. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

The Parish Council to identify replacement representatives at:
Thanet Parish Forum
Kent Association of Local Councils

12. DOCUMENTS FOR INFORMATION

The following documents will be available for Members to inspect:

- (i) RSP Survey on Manston Airport
- (ii) Links to the Draft TDC Local Plan
- (iii) Survey from the Police Crime Commissioner
- (iv) KCC Waste Management
- (v) TDC Tenancy Strategy

13. MATTERS OF REPORT BY MEMBERS

To receive reports as appropriate.

14. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

To agree a date for the next meeting.

Roy Wade

Clerk to Acol Parish Council

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18th September 2018

ACOL PARISH COUNCIL

Draft Minutes of the Meeting held on 24th September 2018 at 18.00 hours in the Village Hall, The Street, Acol

Present: Councillors Miss Bransfield (Chairman), D Hayfield, J Inchley, M Johnson & Mrs. Osborne.

Also Present: Cllrs. Crow-Brown (TDC) & Miss Dawson (KCC) & Roy Wade (Clerk to the Council).

36. CO-OPTION TO THE PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman formally welcomed Councillor Mel Johnson, who had been co-opted to the Parish Council, to his first meeting.

37. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from PCSO Ms Forsyth and KCC Warden Tony Gander.

38. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

39. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the Meetings held on 9th & 30th July 2018 be approved and signed by the Chairman.

40. REPORT OF DISTRICT COUNCILLORS

The Chairman brought forward this item as Cllr. Crow-Brown had to leave early to attend another meeting.

Cllr. Crow-Brown reported on:

- (i) **Meeting with Iain Livingston (TDC Planning).** To discuss the service of a section 215 notice on the developers of the Crown & Sceptre in respect of the unauthorised development of the site. In considering this matter Members also had regards to the Chairman's correspondence with TDC Planning expressing the Parish Council's extreme concern at the inordinate delays in resolving these concerns. Members also noted the frustration of 2 residents of Grosvenor Cottages at these delays.
- (ii) **Columbus Avenue – Proposed extension.** James Wraight (Kent Highways) had advised him that a bid for funding had been submitted in respect of proposals to extend Columbus Avenue. During the discussion of this item reference was made to the recent works to install traffic calming measures in The Street and whether funds would allow for works to be undertaken in Margate Hill and Crispe Road.
- (iii) **Unauthorised Camping by Travellers.** TDC had put down hard core at the entrance to the old road running alongside Manston airport to restrict the use of the former road for the parking of caravans.
- (iv) **Spitfire Way Junction.** A section 215 notice had been served on the owners of the site requiring them to move back the fencing to its original position.

Cllr. Miss Dawson reported on:

- (i) **Unauthorised Camping by Travellers.** She had discussions with Mike Hill (KCC Cabinet Officer) who confirmed that KCC would work with TDC to draw up a policy of dealing with travellers.
- (ii) **Pot Holes.** The company engaged by the County Council had satisfactorily filled 2026 potholes since March 2018.

- (iii) **KCC Adult Social Care.** The cost of this service was becoming unmanageable and it highlighted the need for an increase in building more affordable housing within the County.
- (iv) **Shared Lives.** KCC were introducing a scheme which would give greater recognition to those people who care for those requiring social care assistance.

41. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Chairman reported upon the following:

- (i) The Parish Council has sent a formal complaint to the TDC Planning Department about the lack of enforcement of the Section 215 Notice, to rebuild the top floor of the Crown & Sceptre building and replace the roof. A response is awaited.
- (ii) The Traffic Calming system appears to be affective. Less traffic has been seen and almost all have to slow down. Some commercial vehicles and cars do not, but the largest ramp can be heard damaging the undersides.
- (iii) Highways have asked if we need the salt bin topped up in case of ice and/or snow. Nursery Fields have expressed a desire to site another bin for residents at that end of the village, which they will discuss and confirm to the Parish Council.

42. TRANSPARENCY CODE

It was agreed to hold a special meeting to consider the reports circulated by Cllr. Mrs. Osborne on a possible Transparency Code and Publication Scheme for the Council.

43. SOUTHERN WATER AUTHORITY

Cllr. Inchley submitted the following detailed report upon a meeting on 6th September:

Present: David Manyweather (Manston Business Park Developer), Matt, (E.K.O.), Rob Edwards (Peter Brett Associates), Aaron Hughes (Peter Brett Associates), Sir Roger Gale (North Thanet MP), Linda Wright (TDC Councillor), John Gallagher and Stewart (Southern Water), Jon Inchley (Acol Parish Council).

Background

When Wiggins went bust, KCC took the opportunity to buy the patch of land between the edge of the site and Columbus Avenue at an advantageous rate.

They then, in conjunction with TDC established EKO to manage land holdings with a view to ensuring the development and subsequent disposal of the land.

EKO have appointed Peter Brett Associates as planning consultants to deliver basic infrastructure and to facilitate the developers planning applications .

David Manyweather is currently the principal developer of the Manston Business Park, and buys parcels of land, erects business units and sells these on to end users He has currently sold as many units as he has land for – some before the units are actually erected. He is anxious to buy more parcels of land as the demand exceeds his ability to supply.

EKO are anxious to sell all the parcels of land they hold.

Manston Business Park, when fully developed and occupied will provide approx. 450 jobs to the Thanet economy, which has the highest unemployment rate in the Country.

Currently all planning applications for additional units are being refused by TDC, as the Acol Pumping Station is working at full capacity.

Southern Water will only invest in infrastructure when there is a contract committing the end user to purchasing the individual unit.

EKO have already invested in a refurbishment of a pumping station (beside Cummins) which Southern Water have taken over and maintain. This pumping station takes all the foul water from the existing buildings on the Business Park and pumps it into a manhole on the Minster Road from where it flows to Acol pumping station.

EKO have also commissioned Southern Water to undertake a study to provide a solution to the current impasse. This involves providing a new sewer from the pumping station which will take the foul water East across the 'China Gateway' land (behind Summit Aviation) and to an existing manhole in Manston Road. Southern Water estimate that this could take two to three years to deliver.

Other Considerations

Currently Acol pumping station has to deal not only with foul water, but also rainwater run-off. This should be returned to the Water Table by using soakaways, but it is quite common to find that builders find it easier to divert rainwater into sewer pipes.

Minster Road had only eight drains to cope with rainfall between the Business park and the pumping station, and these get minimal maintenance – and only when they get blocked.

The Thanet Aquifer is centred under the Airfield and is the 1st tier.

The Cummins pumping station is in the 3rd tier Thus the risk of polluting the aquifer is less at the Cummins pumping station.

Discussion

Each party put forward its position. EKO are desperate to sell all the parcels of land, and are willing to invest to achieve a speedy solution.

Manyweathers are keen to buy all the available parcels of land, if they are able to get planning permission to build on them.

Sir Roger is anxious that the much needed jobs are facilitated. He also is concerned that the "China Gateway" land is developed for industrial use as quickly as possible to increase employment opportunities.

Peter Brett Associates are in place to assist the developer with his planning applications and are working closely with Southern Water in support of the long-term strategic solution to the disposal of foul water.

Southern Water has recently changed its processes to ensure that they do not invest in abortive schemes from which they cannot recover their investment. Thus they will only undertake work when an end user has contracted for the purchase of the site.

Thus we are in a chicken and egg situation – Southern Water cannot start work on a solution because there is no end user commitment. Manyweathers cannot get planning permission because the sewage solution is not in place, end users will not purchase units without planning permission. EKO cannot sell more parcels of land. Jobs are not being created and so on.

Sir Roger expressed outrage at the short-sighted approach of Southern Water and suggested that he would speak to the Secretary of State for the Environment and the Minister for Work and Pensions pointing out the desperate need for jobs in Thanet and the intransigence of Southern Water. He did however calm down and promise a delay in seeking the Nuclear option if a short term expedient solution could be found.

Possible Solution – under investigation

EKO and Peter Brett Associates suggested that a possible quick fix solution may be possible. They proposed the construction of a holding tank adjacent to the Cummins pumping station, which would store foul water during the day and pump it into the system at night or during quiet periods of demand. This would, it was suggested, ease the pressure on the Acol pumping station, allowing it to handle the demand by spreading it over the 24-hour period. Southern Water were sceptical as to whether their engineers would agree to work on the holding tank but agreed to look at the feasibility within two weeks. Clearly there are design considerations which will need to be taken into account – not least the installation of a sewage holding tank on the edge of the Thanet aquifer, and the danger of spillage.

44. RECREATION GROUND/PLAY AREA

Cllr. Hayfield thanked Karen Ault and her team of volunteers for the excellent works they had carried out to maintain the children's area.

The Clerk was asked to enquire whether the area recently reinstated needed a weed killing treatment.

45. CLERK'S REPORT

The Clerk reported that (i) Members had been invited to attend the Remembrance Day service in Ramsgate on 11 November 2018, but no Members were able to attend; and (ii) correspondence had been received from the KALC about scams being carried out.

46. FINANCIAL MATTERS

Bank Balance

The bank balance at 1 September 2018 was £9256.32p.

47. REPORT OF THE POLICE/COMMUNITY WARDENS/PCSOs

PCSO Ms. Forsyth was not in attendance and the Chairman read her report:

She hopes that the traffic calming work didn't cause too much disruption and that the end result is worth any inconvenience. She's interested to learn if it has made a difference.

There is a scam that has reared its ugly head again. A group of doorstep callers will offer household cleaning products for sale. They may say that they are injured or ex-servicemen or that they are ex convicts attempting to mend their ways. They may say that they are on a rehabilitation course arranged by Probation Services. This is not the case. Probation services do not run such schemes. They may also show a card which claims to be a "Pedlars Licence" or work permit, this is not valid. They may also claim to be deaf and dumb. Please encourage your neighbours to TURN THEM AWAY. If cold callers don't get any sales in your area, they are less likely to return.

She is looking forward to the Police Surgeries on the first Wednesday of every month, in the Village Hall at 16.45. She has combined Acol with Manston to provide all villagers with an opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

Members asked that the Clerk ascertains from the Police Service whether officers would attend future Parish Council meetings as they used to.

48. REPRESENTATION ON OUTSIDE BODIES

Cllr. Miss Bransfield will resume attendance at the Thanet Parish Forum and Cllr. Johnson volunteered to attend meetings of the Kent Association of Local Councils.

49. REPORTS BY MEMBERS

Cllr. Mrs. Osborne. (i) **Thanet Area Local Councils:** It was agreed to display a poster in the Village Hall on "Share it don't ignore it"; and (ii) CPRE were seeking to increase its membership to build up its funds to maintain the integrity of the countryside.

Cllr. Inchley. Village Hall Kitchen: The works to the extension of the kitchen had had to be delayed as it was necessary to seek advice from a structural engineer.

Cllr. Hayfield. Drones: KALC had issued advice on the controlling of drones, but there are already appropriate Laws, covering qualification and insurance, laid down by the Civil Aviation Authority.

50. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

It was agreed to hold the next meeting on 3rd December 2018 commencing at 14.00 hours.

Time concluded: 19.15