

Nettlestead Parish Council

Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

Held on 9th June 2022 at 7.45pm
At Nettlestead Village Hall

Members Present

Cllrs David Meredith - Chairman, Emily Corfe, Alison Green, Rebecca Pullen, MBC Cllr Claudine Russell

A member of the public, Martyn Evans, attended the meeting as a potential new councillor

1. Apologies for absence

Anita Van-Hensbergen – Vice Chairman, The Clerk – Michelle Rumble, Jackie Bennett, KCC/MBC Cllr Simon Webb,

2. Declaration of pecuniary or personal interest in any item on the agenda

None

3. Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 9th June 2022

The minutes of the last meeting were signed as a true and correct record.

4. External Reports

4.1 County Councillor Report

The following report had been provided prior to the meeting by KCC Cllr Webb:

The Council will continue at pace in the next few weeks with both Cabinet Committee meetings and a Full County Council meeting on Thursday 14th July.

With many of our residents experiencing severe pressures from the rising cost of living, KCC received a further grant (announced by the Chancellor in his Spring Statement in March) of just over £11m from the Household Support Fund Extension, which we are allocating to Free School Meals for the May half term, as well as a £50 flat rate assistance for the summer holidays, along with support for vulnerable residents' energy and water bills and other help to those experiencing financial hardship.

The Queen's Speech on 10 May included a number of Bills of importance to KCC, most notably the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill and the Schools Bill.

The Schools Bill, which we debated continues the drive for all schools to become academies and encourages them to join Multi-Academy Trusts - but also strengthens the regulatory framework for academy trusts and enables local authorities to establish MATs. We have worked closely and effectively with the DfE and ministers and we have expressed an interest in piloting work concerning a local authority MAT.

4.2 Borough Councillor Report

MBC Cllr Russell updated the PC on the following:

ERL PAC:

It was noted that a new gallery is to be added to Maidstone Museum and that the Carriage Museum will be open more frequently, the next opening will be over the weekend of 23rd/24th July.

There is a wide programme of events and activities planned in Maidstone over the Summer, details are available on the MBC website.

Planning:

There will be a tightening up of some Planning Policies on Design & Sustainability with greater emphasis on locality and environment.

Local Plan Review:

The draft Local Plan is with the inspector now with representations from interested parties beginning in the autumn.

Cllr Russell also stated that the "1000 Affordable Homes" scheme is looking for suitable development sites.

Maidstone Task Force:

The Task force which includes representatives from the Police, DWP, Community Protection, KCC Wardens and Housing Associations has relocated from Shepway to now be based in Marden & Yalding Ward. It is hoped that this will provide extra useful support to the area.

4.3 PCSO Report

No report had been received.

5. Councillor's Reports

5.1 Neighbourhood Watch

Cllr Corfe reported the following 2 incidents that have been reported:

Between 22:30 on Monday 30th May and 13:00 on Tuesday 31st May somebody stole a white Mercedes E250 from the road. Bishops Close, Nettlestead – Crime Report No.46/110350/22

Between 21:00 on Monday 6th June and 07:00 on Tuesday 7th June somebody broke into a Nissan Micra. Nettlestead – Crime Report No.46/109625/22

5.2 Chatterbox

No report had been received.

5.3 Parish Magazine

No report had been received.

6. KGV Field

It was noted that the Jubilee Tree is suffering distress from the lack of water. Cllr Corfe will ask Mark Fisher if he could water it. The Clerk was requested to ask Capel Groundcare if they have a bowser and whether they could water it.

6.1 Goal Posts

Cllr Meredith confirmed that he had sent an email to the complainants outlining the process that will be undertaken in order to resolve the matter concerning the use of the top area of the KGV and the potential siting of any replacement goal post(s).

Cllr Meredith also agreed to draft a survey to seek residents' preferences for use of the top end of the KGV.

6.2 Fly-Tipping

The incidence of fly-tipping of garden waste on the KGV has been reported to the Police and MBC – fault number DIG427038683 (being investigated).

7. Churchyard

It was noted that the Churchyard is in good condition.

8. Highways and Footpath matters

8.1 Speedwatch

No comments were made.

8.2 Footpaths

Overgrowth on the following footpaths have been reported to KCC:

- a) KM 176 behind Old School House – Fault number 220628605 (in progress)
- b) KM 177 by the side of Honey's Oast – Fault number 220638131 (in progress)
- c) KM 179 behind Bryant Close – Fault number 220683163 (awaiting allocation)

Cllr Corfe raised the issue of dog “poo” and it was agreed by all that the incidence of dog “poo” being left on public footpaths has increased since Lockdown. Cllr Russell agreed to ask MBC if a combined Rubbish and Dog waste bin and signage could be installed where footpaths KM 176 and KM177 meet at the junction of Bishops and Bryant Close. It was also agreed to ask whether a similar bin and signage could be located at the bottom of footpath KM 179 where it meets Maidstone Road.

It was agreed that a note should be placed in the Parish Magazine reminding dog owners of their responsibility to clean up after them.

9. Planning Matters

9.1 New Planning Applications:

None

9.2 Decisions made by MBC:

None

10. Finance

10.1 RESOLUTION to receive Budget Monitoring Report to July 2022

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to receive the Budget Monitoring Report to July 2022.

10.2 RESOLUTION to approve payments for July and August 2022

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to make the payments below.

NPC CHEQUE LIST - JULY					
				Supplier	
Cheque No	Gross	VAT	Nett		Details
622259	£99.95	£0.00	£99.95	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Expenses - June/July
622260	£198.00	£0.00	£198.00	Hadlum Design	Parish magazine printing
622261	£607.34	£101.22	£506.12	Capel Groundcare	GM Contract
622262	£165.20	£0.00	£165.20	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Salary underpayment May/June
622263	£76.60	£0.00	£76.60	HMRC	PAYE/NIC
622264	£106.75	£5.08	£101.67	Npower Business	Electricity Street Lights
DD0701	£8.40	£1.40	£7.00	Sage Payroll	Payroll fee - July
S00701	£762.19	£0.00	£762.19	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Salary - July
	£2,024.43	£107.70	£1,916.73		
NPC CHEQUE LIST - AUGUST					
				Supplier	
Cheque No	Gross	VAT	Nett		Details
622265	£56.75	£0.00	£56.75	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Expenses - August
DD0701	£8.40	£1.40	£7.00	Sage Payroll	Payroll fee - July
S00801	£762.19	£0.00	£762.19	Mrs Michelle Rumble	Salary - July
	£827.34	£1.40	£825.94		

10.3 RESOLUTION to approve the Bank Reconciliation.

It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Bank Reconciliation and Statement, these will be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

10.4 RESOLUTION to approve and sign DD for Npower Business.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the DD for Npower Business.

10.5 RESOLUTION to approve and sign Standing Order for Clerk from July 2022.

It was **RESOLVED** to approve and sign the Standing Order for The Clerk from July 2022.

11. Social Media

Cllr Pullen proposed that the PC have a Facebook page to engage residents and provide another means of communication to complement the Parish website and the Parish Magazine. There was discussion about the purpose of the Page and what types of information should be posted. There was also some concern about the potential for abuse and the need for a moderator. MBC Cllr Russell stated that Marden PC have a Facebook page and that operates well and is seen as a positive form of communication.

It was agreed that Cllr Pullen would set-up an NPC Facebook page and would post updates and notifications on behalf of the PC. It was agreed that this should only be used for PC events and activities although consideration would be given to the PC using the page to promote village related charitable events etc. Cllr Pullen was asked to liaise with Cllr and Berty Van-Hensbergen regarding the artwork for the page logo in order to tie-up with the Parish Magazine.

12. Correspondence

It was noted that The Clerk had been informed by SECAMBS that the defibrillator at the Village Hall had been used. This has been checked over and is in working order. It was, however, noticed that the cabinet needs some maintenance, and The Clerk was asked to arrange this.

13. To Resolve to go into Closed Session and to exclude the Press and Public at Item 13 (admissions to meetings) Act 1960 in accordance with Standing Order 10 (xi) HR Matters.

The meeting went in to Closed Session to discuss the remuneration of The Clerk. It was noted that payments for May and June had been inadvertently mis-calculated and that back payment was due. It was also agreed to regularise the Clerk's working hours at 11 hours / week and that these would predominantly be undertaken on Monday and Thursday during office hours. Additional ad hoc work to be undertaken as required if a Councillor raises an issue/query.

14. Future Agenda Items

Vacancy for Parish Councillor: Martyn Evans to be officially co-opted at the start of the next meeting
KGV Field - Purpose/Goal Posts

Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 1st September 2022 at Nettlestead Village Hall at 7.45pm
There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.05pm