

**The Minutes of the Meeting of Detling Parish Council
held on 4th September 2018 7.50pm in Detling Village Hall.**

Councillors present: *Bowie*
Clayton
Finn
Howells
Maynard

Also, present: *Parish Clerk, Mrs Sherrie Babington, MBC Councillor Nick de Wiggondene and Members of the Public.*

The meeting was chaired by Councillor Bowie.

1. Apologies.

Members who cannot attend a meeting shall tender their apologies to the Parish Clerk prior to the meetings, under Section 85(1) of the Local Government Act 1972, the members present must decide whether the reason(s) for a member's absence shall be accepted.

Apologies were received from Parish Councillor Zammit, and KCC Councillor Prendergast.

2. Declaration of Interest.

To receive Declarations of Interest in respect of matters contained in this agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Localism Act 2011 in respect of members and in accordance with the provisions of the Local Government Act 1972 in respect of officers.

To consider any Dispensation requests received by the Parish Clerk and not previously considered.

Cllr Finn declared an interest in a grant request and other requests and correspondence regarding the Community Shop Project.

There were no Dispensation requests to consider.

3. Public Comments and Observations.

This is the opportunity for members of the public to raise issues with the Parish Council.

A resident in attendance at the meeting raised concerns regarding the vegetation growing through the rubber matting around the new play equipment in the Old School Playing Field. She also informed the Parish Council that the gate from the village hall to the Playing Field was being left open and she considered this to be dangerous.

She raised concerns regarding the number of vehicles parking on the pavements in the parish and suggested that public awareness may assist with this matter.

The resident spoke regarding the traffic in the village and an article that was published in the Detling News regarding the option of having a one-way system in the parish and she raised concerns about this.

Cllr Clayton responded to this concern and stated that the Parish Council was currently looking at possible options to tackle the traffic issues in the Parish. He stated that having a Community Police Volunteer was a good initiative and he hoped that this would assist the issues.

Cllr Howells stated that the proposed Action Group was due to be set up to look at Highways matters, and a Public Meeting was to be arranged. He stated that he was also due to meet with Kent Highways to explore the range of options open to the Parish Council.

4. Approval of the minutes of the previous meeting.

To consider the minutes of the previous meeting and if in order sign as a true record.

The minutes from the previous meeting were circulated to all members for consideration and approval.

It was proposed by Cllr Clayton to accept these as a true record, these were seconded by Cllr Howells and agreed by all Councillors.

The minutes were then signed and dated by the Chairman.

5. Matters arising from the previous minutes (not reported elsewhere).

Flag Pole – Cllr Clayton informed members that as agreed at the previous meeting, he had now purchased a flagpole and flags. He stated that the flagpole would be erected next to the Village Sign and the pole could be put up when necessary. He confirmed that planning permission was not needed for this.

Flint Wall – The Clerk reported that a Surveyor was due to inspect the Flint Wall.

Open Spaces Committee – The Chairman stated that it was proposed that the Parish Council set up an Open Spaces Committee to deal with all matters concerning the Parish Open Spaces. This was discussed by members and it was agreed that this should be progressed. Draft Terms of Reference were circulated for members consideration. These were approved by members. (Clayton/Finn)

It was agreed that the Agenda should be changed to include reports from the Open spaces Committee.

Action: Clerk to amend agenda.

Beacons of Light – The Chairman spoke regarding the Beacons of Light event and proposed an alternative option of having a Centenary Seat in the Old School Playing Field to mark the event. She circulated details of this to all members.

This was discussed by members and it was proposed by Cllr Clayton to purchase a Centenary Bench for the Parish at a cost of £640 plus vat and delivery, this was seconded by Cllr Howells and agreed by all present.

Action: Clerk to order Bench.

Members discussed that condition of the memorial seats in the Playing Field and it was noted that these were in need of attention. It was agreed that Cllr Finn would liaise with a local carpenter to see whether he was able to renovate these.

Action: Cllr Finn to action.

6. Financial Matters.a. To approve the payment of accounts (list to be supplied at the meeting)

It was agreed to raise three additional cheques as follows:

Chq 416 – KWES payment of Woodland Grant - £450.00

Chq 417 – Mr Clayton for flag pole - £62.12

Chq 418 – J Monk, mower and expenses - £526.40

The cheques for payment were authorised and approved by members. (Bowie/Howells)

The cheques and invoices were then signed by two authorised signatories.

b. To note the bank account balances as circulated in report supplied at the meeting.

The balances of the Parish Councils bank accounts were noted by members.

Bank Balances

Co-operative Current Account	£99020.50
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0
Less Account for payment	£23814.99
Closing Balance	£75205.51

Co-operative Playing Field A/C	£1505.87
Less/Add Account transfers/deposits	£0.00
Closing Balance	£1,505.87

Total Balance of all Parish Council Accounts	£76711.38
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Transparency Fund (This fund is included in the current account balances)

20/07/2016	Grant received	£1,420.32
	Less payments	£353.99
Balance		£1066.33

c. To consider the introduction of internet banking.

The Chairman spoke regarding this matter and it was agreed that the bank signatories would be updated before the online banking could be progressed.

d. To consider grant application and other requests from the Detling CIC Community Shop project.

Councillors Finn and Clayton declared an interest and withdrew from voting on agenda item 6d.

Request for £10,000 loan for Community Shop set up.

The Chairman informed members that a request had been received for the Detling CIC for a loan of £10,000 towards the set-up costs for the Community Shop to be paid over a period of five years. The Clerk informed members that the Parish Council was able to consider a request for a loan under Section 19 of the 1972 LGA, it was able to set its own interest rate and any agreement should be legally drawn up and signed by both parties.

Members discussed the request for a loan to be paid over a period of five years and considered the advice of the Clerk. It was proposed by Cllr Howells to make a loan of £10,000 to the Detling CIC, for the set-up costs of the Community Shop, to be re-paid over a period of five years, with an interest rate of 0.1% above the PC bank interest rate. Agreement to be drawn up by the PC Solicitor. This was seconded by Cllr Maynard and agreed by all present with the exception of those members who declared an interest in this matter.

Action: Loan of £10,00 to be made to Detling CIC on terms agreed by the Parish Council.

Grant Application – Detling Community Hub.

The Chairman stated that this grant application had been submitted to seek a one-off grant of £4500 towards the set-up costs for the Community Hub element of the project focusing in on the café to benefit the local community.

The Clerk confirmed that a grant could be given for the Community Hub under the Financial Regulation for Recreation and Tourism.

Cllr Maynard asked what other grants to Community Shop and Hub had received and how they would finance the project if these were not forthcoming. Cllr Finn answered these queries.

Members considered this further and it was proposed by Cllr Howells to award a grant of £4500 towards the Community Hub. This was seconded by Cllr Bowie and agreed by all present with the exception of the members who declared an interest in this item.

Action: PC approved grant of £4500 towards the Community Hub.

Rental charge for PC office space in Community Shop.

The Chairman stated that the PC had considered renting an office for Parish Council use in the Community Shop and if this was approved the annual rental charge would be £2500 per annum.

Members considered this and the benefits of having an office to use within the Parish. It was agreed that this would be progressed, and the Parish Council would rent the office for occasional use at an annual rental charge of £2500 per annum. This was proposed by Cllr Howells, seconded by Cllr Maynard and agreed by all present with the exception of those members who declared an interest in this matter.

Action: PC approved the rental charge of £2500 per annum and agreed to rent office space within the Community Shop.

7. Open Spaces.

a. Horish Wood

Cllr Howells reported that he had met with Alison Wainman from KWES to discuss Horish Wood and the Management Plan.

He reported on the work to be undertaken in line with the Management Plan and stated that compartment 3A was due to be planted with saplings, he confirmed that Alison Wainman would arrange a volunteer day to undertake the planting.

He spoke regarding the Woodland grant of £450 paid to the Parish Council and it was agreed that a cheque would be raised at the meeting to pay this over to KWES. (Howells/Bowie)

The Chairman thanked Cllr Howells for his work regarding this matter and it was agreed by members that he would be the Parish Council point of contact for KWES.

b. Old School Playing Field.

Cllr Bowie reported that a Public Consultation event had taken place on Saturday 1st September in the Village Hall to ascertain the electorates views on siting the Community Shop on the Old School Playing Field.

She informed the meeting that approximately 41 people had attended the event, and most were in support of the Community Shop being sited at the Playing Field, she stated that 2 people objected to the proposals.

Cllr Bowie congratulated the Community Shop Group for their display at the event and thanked RTS Creative for their assistance with the display boards.

Cllr Finn reported that donations for the shop had now reached £4000 and he thanked residents for their support.

Cllr Bowie spoke regarding an issue raised regarding the trees in the Old School Playing Field. She stated that there were two dead trees that needed to be removed and two that needed to be crown lifted. Also, that the trees from the kissing gate needed to be reduced in height line with those already pollarded by the VHMC.

This was discussed, and it was agreed that quotations for the work should be sought.

Action: PC to seek quotations for the tree work.

Cllr Howells reported on a Consultation meeting he had attended at the White Horse Woods and he circulated a survey to all members.

c. Village Environmental Improvements.

Cllr Finn reported that the handrail to the steps at Jades Crossing was damaged and lying on the ground and the bridge was overgrown with vegetation.

Action: Clerk to report to KCC.

d. Monks Meadow.

Mr Monk reported that he had purchased the strimmer as agreed at the previous meeting.

Members considered correspondence from residents undertaking work in Monks Meadow asking for the Parish Council to purchase a lawn mower to assist with its maintenance.

This was considered by members and it was agreed that the PC would purchase a mower at the cost of £389.00 and Mr Monk would coordinate this. (Clayton/Howells)

Action: Lawn mower to be purchased for use within the Parish.

e. Scragged Oak View Point.

Members discussed Scragged Oak View Point and agreed that it was overgrown and in need of cutting back as the views were obscured. The Clerk was asked to liaise with KCC regarding this.

Action: Clerk to action.

8. Reports from External Parties.

a. MBC Ward Councillor Report.

Ward Councillor Nick de Wiggondene gave his report to the meeting.

He spoke regarding the MBC Local Plan Review and the possibility of the Borough having to find 7500 new homes. This was discussed by members.

Cllr Bowie informed Cllr de Wiggondene that there had been a reported problem with bonfires in the parish and she asked if he could assist the resident with this issue. He stated that he would look into this matter.

Cllr Howells spoke regarding a Detling Neighbourhood Plan and reported that he was due to meet with an officer from Maidstone Borough Council to discuss this. He suggested that the neighbouring parishes of Stockbury and Thurnham could be consulted to see if they wish to undertake a joint plan. This was agreed by members.

Action: Cllr Howells to action.

Cllr Finn spoke regarding the school catchment area for Detling and raised concerns about this as children from Detling were being sent to schools all over Maidstone.

Cllr de Wiggondene stated that he understood the concerns for Detling and would bring these concerns to the attention of the relevant authority.

b. KCC Councillor Report.

KCC Councillor Shellina Prendergast gave her apologies to the meeting.

c. Maintenance Report.

Tony Taylor gave his report to the meeting on the maintenance that he had undertaken around the parish.

He reported that the drains were still blocked outside of the Village Hall and along the Pilgrims Way outside of Plumtree Cottage.

He also reported that the wires were still exposed at the junction to the A249.

Cllr Clayton stated that the cables were being actioned.

The Clerk confirmed that the drains had been reported to KCC.

Mr Taylor raised concerns regarding the accessibility for the fire hydrants in the parish as cars were regularly parking over these.

It was agreed that the Clerk would place an item in the Detling News regarding the importance of keeping these clear.

d. Police Report.

PCSO Matt Adlington attended the meeting along with the new Community Police Volunteer, he gave his report to the meeting.

He reported that there had been a spate of shed break-ins along Hockers Lane and residents had been made aware of this.

He introduced CPV to the meeting and gave a brief explanation of her role within the police assisting assist him with his duties.

Cllr Finn asked how the police could assist with the rat run traffic in the village in the mornings.

PCSO Adlington stated that resources were an issue as the last police operation had taken nine police officers and a Police Sergeant and the problem was too big for the PCSO and CPV to assist.

He stated that he would look into what action they could take to try to assist with the issue. A general discussion took place regarding this matter.

9. Parish Council Reports.

a. Clerk's/Correspondence Report.

To consider items of correspondence received relevant to the Parish Council.

The Clerks report was noted by members.

b. Chairman's/ Councillors Report.

Members who have attended any meeting on behalf of the Parish Council are invited to give their report to the meeting.

Cllr Bowie reported that the VHMC Hog Roast event had taken place in August and had been a success, she congratulated and thanked the Village Hall Committee for their work on the event.

c. Planning Committee Report.

The planning decisions made by the Planning Committee were ratified by the Parish Council. (Clayton/Finn).

d. Parish Council Committee Reports.

No matters were raised.

10. Detling Neighbourhood Plan.

No further matters were raised.

11. Parish Maintenance.

No matters were raised.

12. PC Standing Orders.

The Clerk circulated the 2018 Model Standing Orders for members consideration. It was agreed that these would be formally considered at the next meeting.

13. Detling Air Quality.

Cllr Clayton reported that Detling would be part of the KALC project regarding air pollution.

14. Items for the next Agenda.

No matters were raised.

15. Date of next meeting.

Tuesday 2nd October 2018 in the Meeting Room of Detling Village Hall at 7.00pm.

There being no further business to discuss the meeting was closed to the press and public at 9.50pm.

Signed: _____
Chairman

Dated: _____