

NETTLESTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON THURSDAY 1ST JUNE 2023 IN NETTLESTEAD VILLAGE HALL at 19:45

PRESENT: Cllr Alison Green - Chair
Cllr Anita van Hensbergen - Vice-chair
Cllr David Meredith
Cllr Jackie Bennett
Cllr Emily Corfe
Cllr Martyn Evans

The Parish Clerk Mrs M Rumble,
Borough Councillor C Russell

1. APOLOGIES AND ABSENCE

County Cllr Webb

2. COUNCILLOR DECLARATIONS

No interests declared.

3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 11th of MAY 2023

The minutes of the previous meeting were duly signed by the Chair as a true and accurate record.

4. EXTERNAL REPORTS

4.1 COUNTY COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Webb was not in attendance.

4.2 BOROUGH COUNCILLOR REPORT

Cllr Russell was in attendance and her report had been received prior to the meeting and will be circulated to all members.

MBC Members Report from Cllr Claudine Russell
Dated: June 2023

Local Plan Examination

The second week of the Local Plan Examination has completed and whilst we await the letter from the Inspector for their findings there were no major concerns throughout the week that had cause to halt the examination.

Tovil Tip

Whilst I stray on to KCC territory I want to bring to your attention that KCC are considering closing the Tovil Tip. I went to KCC Sessions House and lobbied members before the debate and listened in to the debate itself, the public consultation starts in July and I would encourage everyone to take part in it and make your views heard. From the MBC side of things we have great concern over the amount of fly-tipping that may occur and the potential for contamination of our waste bins as people try to put items in there that are not permitted. I would also say, book a slot, make the tip well used, after all if you don't use it you may well lose it.

Cabinet Role Change

As well as continuing to be the cabinet member for leisure and arts I now also have communities added to my portfolio. This includes MBC Comms that get sent out and so many initiatives and grants that are delivered throughout the community to help residents in need. I'm looking forward to the new expanded role and trying my best to help Maidstone residents.

Parish Charter

MBC are looking to update the parish charter to make sure that the charter continues to reflect the work that is carried out between MBC and Parishes and make sure that operational changes in terms of Officers and Councillors since the Parish Charter was agreed in September 2015 are up to date and written as per how they are carried out. Parish Councils will be invited to work with MBC through this process and a survey will be sent out to all parish councils shortly to gather their thoughts on what is wanted. We will of course also be working very closely with KALC throughout this process.

Arts and free events

There is a massive programme of events and art that will be coming to Maidstone throughout the summer months, much of which is free to attend and look at, have a look at the “visit Maidstone” website for more detail about all of the activities.

Please feel free to contact me for any help with issues via email claudinerussell@maidstone.gov.uk and I am more than happy to attend a meeting to discuss any issues.

5. COUNCILLOR REPORTS

5.1 NEIGHBOURHOOD WATCH REPORT

Cllr Corfe had forwarded her report prior to the meeting.

- Between 22:00 on Tuesday 16th of May and 06:04 on Wednesday 17th of May in Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, somebody stole a white Ford Transit, BT60***, from the road. Crime Report No. 46/87418/23

5.2 CHATTERBOX REPORT

Cllr Bennett reported that Chatterbox was going well. She also reported that the Warm Space, being operated by the Parish Council, at The Hop Pole was also being very well used and would like to support more families with children. Cllr Bennett agreed to apply for a Grant from Maidstone Borough Council to fund the ongoing project.

5.3 PARISH MAGAZINE

Cllr Van Hensbergen gave her report.

6. KGV FIELD

6.1 TREE GRANT SCHEME

Cllr Green had not received a reply from KCC and will contact them for an update.

6.2 PLATINUM JUBILEE OAK TREE

Cllr Van Hensbergen had inspected the tree and reported that it is in good health. It was agreed that the tree needed watering during the ongoing dry weather and that a layer of mulch would be applied.

6.3 GROUNDS MAINTENANCE

The Clerk had circulated the GM Schedule for the month prior to the meeting, and there were no questions from members on this item.

6.4 MAINTENANCE INSPECTION REPORT

The Maintenance Report had been circulated to all members prior to the meeting and the issues identified have been actioned as follows; cutting back the overhanging trees by the cableway and moss removal from the BMX track have both now been completed. The Clerk has requested quotes to replace the bearings for the rotating platforms on the 8 Station Fitpoint.

7. CHURCHYARD

Cllr Bennett reported that everything was looking good at the Churchyard.

8. HIGHWAYS AND FOOTPATHS

8.1 SPEEDWATCH

The Clerk had received no report this month.

8.2 SPEEDING

At the May meeting it was agreed that the PC would suggest points at which speed strips could be placed to undertake another speed survey as it was felt that the results of the previous survey understate the issue. The following areas were highlighted as possible locations: -

Springdale Terrace

Glenleigh

The Retreat Caravan Park

The Chinese Takeaway

North of the Zebra crossing

Cllr Webb has stated that he would fund this speed survey for the Parish, the Clerk will contact Susan Laporte regarding the above locations and seek further advice.

9. OLD SCHOOL HOUSE CLOCK

Cllr Corfe reported that the clock is now working and keeping good time. This item will now be removed from the agenda.

10. PLANNING MATTERS

10.1 PLANNING APPLICATIONS

<i>23/502119/OUT</i>	<i>Location: Former Syngenta Works Hampstead Lane Yalding Kent ME18 6HJ Section 73 - Application for variation of condition 21 to allow 14,000m2 of floorspace to be occupied prior to the provision of the capacity improvements to the Maidstone Road/Hampstead Lane junction pursuant to 19/504910/OUT - Outline application for the redevelopment of the former Syngenta works site to provide a new business park of up to 46,447 sqm of B1(c), B2 and B8 accommodation with associated access, parking, and infrastructure works. IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS TO OBJECT TO THIS ON THE GROUNDS THAT ALL CONDITIONS AND SECTIONS MUST BE ADHERED TO AS PART OF THE ORIGINAL PLANNING APPLICATION.</i>
<i>23/502118/REM</i>	<i>Location: Former Syngenta Works Hampstead Lane Yalding Kent ME18 6HJ Proposal: Approval of Reserved Matters (scale, layout, appearance and landscaping sought) for Phase B of the development, comprising erection of 20no. commercial units with associated parking, access and landscaping, pursuant to 19/504910/OUT - Outline</i>

	<p><i>application for the redevelopment of the former syngenta works site to provide a new business park of up to 46,447 sqm of B1(c), B2 and B8 accommodation with associated access, parking and infrastructure works. (Access only being sought).</i></p> <p>IT WAS RESOLVED BY ALL MEMBERS TO NO COMMENT.</p>
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10.2 DECISIONS MADE BY MBC

None

11. FINANCE

11.1 RESOLVED by all members to approve the Budget Monitoring report for JUNE 2023

11.2 RESOLVED by all members to approve payments for JUNE 2023

11.3 CLERKS WORKING HOURS.

This was not discussed at this meeting; the Clerk and the Chair will speak outside the meeting and they will report back to the Council on a way forward.

11.4 AUDIT 2022/23

Internal Auditors Report and Supplementary Report to accompany AIAR 2022/23 Statement of Internal Control

To review the effectiveness of the system of Internal Control. Councillors are asked to consider the statement of Internal Control in support of the Annual Governance Statement. This was circulated to all members prior to the meeting and the contents, and the items raised by the Internal Auditor were all noted by the Councillors. It was thought that the report was extremely thorough and informative.

Annual Governance Statement (SECTION 1) 2022-23

To approve the Annual Governance statement for the year ending 2022-23, section 1 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023

The Chair and the Clerk both signed the Annual Governance Statement for the year ending 2022/23.

Accounting Statements (SECTION 2) 2022-23

To approve the accounting statements for the year ending 2022-23, section 2 of the Annual Return for the year ending 31 March 2023

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present that the Chair and the Clerk as RFO sign the Accounting Statements for the year 2022/23.

11.5 RESOLUTION TO ADOPT AND REVIEW THE FOLLOWING POLICIES

NPC Financial Regulations

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

NPC Standing Orders

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

NPC Lone Worker

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

NPC Complaints Procedure

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

NPC Retention Policy

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

NPC Protocol on Recording meetings

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

NPC Internal Control

REVIEWED AND ADOPTED

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to Review and Adopt the above policies for the coming year, these Policies are Reviewed on an Annual basis by the Parish Council and are available to view on the Parish website (nettlesteadparishcouncil.co.uk)

11.6 COUNCILLORS EMAIL ADDRESSES

The Clerk had stated that the Internal Audit stated that it is a requirement for the Parish Councillors to have Council email addresses. The Clerk will investigate and obtain some quotes.

11.7 INTERNET BANKING

The Clerk reported that this is an ongoing process.

12. SOCIAL MEDIA

It was noted that the PC Facebook page is being regularly updated with relevant information for local residents.

13. CORRESPONDENCE

No correspondence

14. FUTURE AGENDA ITEMS

Warm Space additional Grants
Tree Grant
Speeding

15. DATE OF NEXT MEETING

The next meeting will be on Thursday the 6th of JULY 2023 at 7.45pm at Nettlestead Village Hall.

There being no further business, the meeting closed at 20.47pm