

# Nettlestead Parish Council

## Minutes of a Parish Council Meeting

Held on 6<sup>TH</sup> APRIL 2023 at 7.45pm

At Nettlestead Village Hall

### Members Present

Cllr David Meredith - Chairman, Cllr Anita Van-Hensbergen – Vice Chairman, Cllr Emily Corfe, Cllr Jackie Bennett, Cllr Alison Green, Cllr Martyn Evans, MBC Cllr Claudine Russell

#### 1. Apologies for absence

The Clerk Michelle Rumble, Cllr Rebecca Pullen, KCC/MBC Cllr Simon Webb, PCSO Nicola Morris

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

None

#### 3. Minutes of Full Council Meeting held on 2<sup>nd</sup> March 2023

It was noted that in the minutes of the last meeting Councillor Evans name had been mis-spelt. This was corrected manually, and the Minutes were then signed.

#### 4. External Reports

##### 4.1 County Councillor Report

No report had been received.

##### 4.2 Borough Councillor Report

MBC Cllr Claudine Russell updated the meeting with the following information:

### ***Voter ID***

From 4 May 2023 you will need to have photo ID in order to be able to vote at a polling station. You do not need to have ID for postal voting.

ID you can use

You can use any of the following:

- passport
- driving licence (this includes a provisional driving licence)
- blue badge
- older person's or disabled person's bus pass
- identity card bearing the Proof of Age Standards Scheme hologram (a PASS card)
- biometric immigration document

You can use your ID even if it is out of date, as long as the photo looks like you. There are other types of ID that you can use, you can find out more on The Electoral Commission website.

Photo ID for voting

If you do not have an accepted form of ID you can apply for a Voter Authority Certificate for free.

The deadline to apply for the local elections on 4 May 2023 is 5pm Tuesday 25 April 2023.

### ***S106/CIL Online Tool***

There is now a S106/CIL online tool to allow anyone interested to look at the up-to-date information on monies collected/spent/handed over to KCC or other providers. The tool is simple to use and can be filtered by ward or parish easily.

### ***Museum***

We have appointed the designers for the new archaeology gallery at Maidstone Museum and work continues at pace to get this opened in 2024.

### ***Maidstone in Bloom***

The competition is now open until 30th June with lots of different categories for entry and prizes of garden centre vouchers. Details on the Borough website.

### ***Medieval Fayre***

The Medieval Fayre is coming to Brenchley Gardens this Saturday (8<sup>th</sup> April) 11am-4pm with lots of free family activities including birds of prey and a dragon!

#### **4.3 PCSO Report**

No report had been received.

### **5. Councillor's Reports**

#### **5.1 Neighbourhood Watch**

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

- Between 00:01 on Sunday 19th of February and 23:59 on Saturday 25th of February in Bishops Close. Somebody stole both number plates from a vehicle parked in the road. Crime Report No. 46/40614/23
- Between 17:00 on Tuesday 28th of February and 08:00 on Wednesday 1st of March along Maidstone Road, Nettlestead, somebody broke into farm buildings and stole power tools. Crime Report No. 46/39312/23

#### **5.2 Parish Magazine**

Cllr Van-Hensbergen stated that there was nothing to report re the Parish Magazine.

#### **5.3 Chatterbox**

Cllr Bennett reported that Chatterbox had sadly lost another member. Cllr Bennett also said that the "Warm Space" initiative being run by the Parish Council (PC) at the Hop Pole pub is continuing and is still being used by several members of our community. It was noted that the Hop Pole does not accept payments by cheque.

It was agreed to ask the Clerk to renew efforts to open an account whereby the PC can make payments electronically or by BACS.

Cllr Bennett was asked to speak to the Hop Pole and see if they can pay in cheques by banking App'.

### **6. KGV Field**

#### **6.1 KCC Members Tree Grant Scheme**

Cllr Green stated that she has made progress on completing the Proposal Form for this scheme with the aim of replacing the hedge at the top of the KGV Field.

It was agreed to remind the Clerk to obtain a second quotation to clear the existing hedge.

#### **6.2 Grounds Maintenance**

The Chair presented a proposed cutting schedule that spreads the number of cuts of the KGV field out over a longer period with the aim of extending the cutting season.

It was agreed by all members present that this was a good idea and the Clerk was asked to forward the proposed new schedule to Capel Groundcare to ask that they work to this.

The PC also requested that the Clerk asks Capel Groundcare if they could inform the PC when a cut has taken place. This would enable members to check the quality of the work that is being undertaken.

The Clerk was asked to obtain the latest Equipment Inspection Report from Capel Groundcare as their schedule states this work has been completed.

The Clerk was asked to confirm whether the PC already has a quote from Capel Groundcare to clear the moss from the BMX track at the KGV. If a quote is not already in place, one should be requested.

## **7. Churchyard**

Cllr Bennett stated that some of the Chatterbox Group have volunteered to look after the small garden area at the churchyard.

## **8. Highways and Footpath matters**

### **8.1 Speedwatch**

No update had been received.

### **8.2 HIP – Traffic Results**

The PC discussed the following results which had been received from Highways at KCC following the speed survey which had been undertaken with a view to taking measures to reduce traffic speed along Maidstone Road particularly in the vicinity of the Zebra Crossing.

*As I mentioned previously, for us to be able to do so the average speeds need to be <28mph. The surveys have found the average speed from the 3 surveys combined to be 31.4 mph. This unfortunately means Maidstone Road is not suitable for a 20mph limit, but it does highlight that there is fairly good compliance with the current 30 speed limit.*

*The average speeds nearer to the zebra crossing were higher than I would have liked to see, with 30mph eastbound and 33mph westbound. With this in mind, I can ask our Planners to investigate whether it will be feasible to paint some SLOW markings and/or 30mph roundels on the carriageway at this location. I am unsure whether KCC will be able to fund these, but if this is something the PC would like to pursue, please let me know.*

The Clerk was requested to ask Highways if there is any detailed breakdown of the data collected from this survey. The Clerk was also asked to feedback to Highways that the PC would like SLOW markings and/or 30mph roundels on the carriageway by the Zebra Crossing if this can be funded by KCC.

### **8.3 Lorrywatch**

It was noted that the Clerk has spoken with Freshlinc about their lorries using Maidstone Road.

## **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 for April 2023**

It was **RESOLVED** by all members present to receive the Budget Monitoring Report for April 2023.

### 10.2 RESOLUTION to approve payments for April 2023

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

				<b>NPC CHEQUE LIST - APRIL</b>	
<b>Cheque No</b>	<b>Gross</b>	<b>VAT</b>	<b>Nett</b>		<b>Details</b>
622311	£91.22	£3.07	£88.15	CLERKS EXPENSES	Expenses - MARCH/APRIL
622312	£95.72	£0.00	£95.72	HMRC	PAYE/NIC
622313	£441.42	£73.57	£367.85	CAPEL GROUNDCARE	GM CONTRACT
622314	£49.50	£8.25	£41.25	STREETLIGHTS	REPAIRS TO COLUMN 6
622315	£198.00	£0.00	£198.00	HADLUM DESIGN	PARISH MAGAZINE PRINTING
622316	£431.86	£71.98	£359.88	HUGO FOX	ANNUAL WEBSITE CHARGE
622317	£367.18	£61.20	£305.98	KALC	MEMBERSHIP 2023
DD0401	£8.40	£1.40	£7.00	SAGE PAYROLL	Payroll fee - APRIL
DD0402	£92.85	£4.42	£88.43	NPOWER	STREETLIGHTING ENERGY
SO0401	£666.60	£0.00	£666.60	CLERKS SALARY	Salary - APRIL
	<b>£2,442.75</b>	<b>£223.89</b>	<b>£2,218.86</b>		

### 10.3 RESOLUTION to approve the Bank Reconciliation.

It was noted that the circulated document had missed off interest due on the account. It was **RESOLVED** to accept the Bank Reconciliation (once the interest has been included) and Statement, these will be signed by the Chair and the Clerk.

#### The Coronation:

Cllr Bennett proposed a village event to celebrate the Coronation of Charles III. It was agreed to organise a bring and share picnic in the garden at the Hop Pole pub. It was agreed that Cllr Bennett should liaise with the Hop Pole and can spend the £150.00 allocated in the Budget for this.

### 11. Social Media

Nothing to report.

### 12. Correspondence

Rural England Prosperity Fund: This was noted.

KALC Response to Maidstone Local Plan Review Examination: This was noted.

### 13. Future Agenda Items

Old School House Clock

2<sup>nd</sup> Quote for clearing the Hedge at the KGV

Capel Groundcare quote to remove moss on the BMX track

KGV Equipment Inspection Report

#### Date of next meeting

The next Parish Council meeting will be on 11<sup>th</sup> May 2023 and will be the Annual Meeting and Annual Parish Meeting of the Parish Council at Nettlestead Village Hall at 7.45pm

There being no further business the meeting closed at 21.00pm