

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held via Zoom Remote Meetings

on 2nd June 2020 at 7.00 pm

Present: Councillors: Mrs. Gimes (Chairman), Day, Quittenden, Jones, Crow-Brown, Sharp, Owen, Kearns, Mills, McCarthy, Burden

Also present: Cllrs Pugh and Roper (TDC), Cllr Hurst (KCC), Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council) Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council), PCSO Adrian Butterworth, Community Warden Karl Aylett

22. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Hart (TDC)

23. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the meeting held on 5th May 2020 be approved and signed by the Chairman when able to do so.

24. MEMBERS' INTERESTS

None declared.

25. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

PCSO Adrian Butterworth reported as follows;

- Crimes of Note; Theft from person at Minster train station. No lines of enquiry as suspect boarded a train.
- Anti-social behaviour Nuisance motor bikes on the land to the rear of Cummins (land owner to be contacted).
Lorry drivers leaving rubbish and human waste in Columbus Avenue (reported to TDC).
Fly-tip at Grinsell Hill reported.
A fire at two garages in Brockmans Close car park.
Fire brigade attended but not reported to police.
Orbit informed and pictures of damage supplied.
182 Nitrous Oxide canisters recovered from Premier Inn car park. Area to be monitored when possible.
- Items of good work Hi-visibility patrols carried out.
Abandoned/untaxed vehicles reported to TDC/DVLA
No major concerns over Covid 19 lock-down breaches in the village. Most residents are compliant.

Community Warden Karl Aylett reported on his recent activity as follows;

- Mostly quiet in the Parish and working closely with PCSO Butterworth.

- Has not been necessary to support the Co-op with their restricted shopping hour.
- Poor condition of steps at Hill House Drive reported to landowner.

26. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Hurst reported as follows:

- KCC have an amount of money available to help businesses emerging from lock-down relating to highways. Contact should be made with James Wright by 3rd June 2020 to ascertain if the Parish could benefit from this funding.

Cllr Roper reported as follows:

- Briefing attended today. Of the £33M that was available for businesses, 80% has been distributed.
- The council will be distributing £1.66m of Central Government discretionary grants to local businesses that submit eligible applications. The scheme is aimed at those businesses that didn't qualify for the previous round of business grants, that have been affected by Covid-19. Further information is available on the TDC website. Applications need to be submitted by 15th June 2020.
- There have been problems with littering and poor behaviour on local beaches. Eleven public toilets at beaches are now open and a management team is drawing up a 'Beach Management plan' to address issues that arise.
- Ramsgate Town Team are distributing food parcels to the vulnerable.
- 6500 people who have been shielding are now able to leave their homes.
- A full virtual council meeting of TDC will be held on 9th July.

Cllr Pugh reported as follows:

- Thanet's Discretionary Business Grants scheme is available to businesses not eligible for previous grants.
- A vote will be taken on the draft Local Plan at the July meeting.

Cllr Day enquired about the possibility of litter picking the verges and the dual-carriageway. Cllr Pugh responded that he would speak to Gavin Waite
Cllr Crow-Brown enquired whether the soil that was placed at the entrance to the closed road that runs alongside the airport could be replaced with landscaping or a barrier.

Cllr Quittenden said that the next scheduled litter-pick and verge cut on the dual carriageway is scheduled for July.

27. CHAIRMANS ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr. Mrs Gimes reported as follows;

- An open letter from the Chairman of NALC has been circulated thanking local councils for their assistance during the current pandemic.
- Thanks was given to the Clerks and other staff for adapting to new ways of working.

Cllr Quittenden enquired whether the landowners of the North field at the airport had responded to the Chairman's letter asking for the area to be left accessible. The Chairman confirmed that an acknowledgment of receipt has been received but not a response.

28. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that social-distancing banners have been ordered for erection at the cemetery, recreation areas and the village centre.
Enquiries have been received relating to the re-opening of the Pavilion and 3G pitch.

29. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None.

30. SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

The Clerk is preparing a Highways Improvement Plan for Minster. This will include all outstanding items and will be reviewed by all Councillors to see if any further items need including for consideration by Kent highways from their future budgets.

31. AGENCY PAYMENT RENEWAL AND TAKING OVER THE HIGH STREET AND MONKTON ROAD CAR PARKS AND PUBLIC TOILET

Some final amendments are to be made by the Solicitor in order to conclude this transfer.

32. DEVELOPMENT PROPOSALS FOR LAND WEST OF TOTHILL STREET OL/TH/18/1488

The expiry date for this application is June 2020.

33. PURCHASE OF TRAILER SPRAYER

Members considered the purchase of a trailed 125L sprayer for use at the recreation ground. Currently, a contractor is engaged for this at a cost of £475 each time. Owning our own equipment would mean our groundsman could spray more regularly and we may also offer to assist other councils with their spraying on a chargeable basis which may offset the cost of the sprayer.

RESOLVED: To purchase a sprayer at a cost of £1661.75 +VAT.

34. SOUTHEASTERN COMMUNITY RAIL FUND

Southeastern have launched a £400,000 fund for community rail projects and are inviting proposals from local organisations. Members considered whether there may be any suitable projects that could benefit from this fund.

AGREED: At this time, there is not a suitable project to submit a proposal for. No further action to be taken.

35. REQUEST FOR BENCH IN MEMORY OF COLIN (RALPH) HOLDEN AT MINSTER RECREATION GROUND

Members considered a request from Mrs Jan Holden, to place a memorial bench at the recreation ground following the passing of Colin (Ralph) Holden.

RESOLVED; To approve the request for a bench to be placed at the recreation ground the site to be agreed with the groundsman at the halfway line of the football pitch.

36. THANET COMMUNITY LAND TRUST

Members considered a request to support TCLT in working with English Rural to locate sites in Minster to build social housing for the elderly residents of Minster. The suggestion is that the rural exception site rule should be used to build on church or Abbey land.

AGREED: The Chairman to prepare a response to TCLT in support, subject to further details being received.

37. DOG FOULING

Following a rise in dog-fouling in the village, Cllr Sharp has prepared a poster with map of the dog bins in the village to encourage dog-owners to clear up after their dog. Thanks was given to Cllr Sharp for the time and effort taken preparing the map. The final version will be displayed on notice boards and the website.

38. COVID-19 SUPPORT BY MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

The Chairman gave an update on support currently being provided to the vulnerable and elderly during the current government restrictions. Recently, there have not been any calls for assistance so hopefully everyone has been able to access anything they need.

39. LITTLE EXPLORERS PRE-SCHOOL

The Chairman gave an update on the re-opening of the pre-school this week. Due to the business being relatively new, it has not been eligible for any of the business grants previously available. Members considered how to support the pre-school while its numbers are low due to current restrictions.

RESOLVED: Agreed to waive the hire charge at the Pavilion for the pre-school until the October half-term and use some of the business grant awarded to the Council to cover this loss of income. Information about the new discretionary grant available from TDC to be passed to Kim Dolman as the pre-school may be eligible.

40. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Members considered the following applications;

Applications

F/TH/20/0571 – Land South of Orchard House, Sheriffs Court Lane, Ramsgate –
Erection of detached two-storey dwelling.

RESOLVED: NO OBJECTION

Cllr Jones and Quittenden objected to this application.

41. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC	Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting has not been held.
Minster School	The Chairman reported that the school is starting to re-open in stages.
Village Hall	Cllr Sharp thanked the Clerk for advice provided that resulted in the Village Hall obtaining a grant.
Twinning Assn.	Cllr Burden reported that in France, elections have been held and Mayor Jean-Luc has been re-elected. Four other Councillors that are members of the Twinning Association remain. The Chairman will send a letter of congratulation to the Mayor.

42. REPORT OF THE RFO

RESOLVED:

- (a) the Bank balance statement be received and noted,**
- (b) the statement of Receipts and Payments for the months of May 2020 be approved.**
- (c) A third investment account to be opened in order to reduce the balance in each account below the £85K protection of the FSCS**

43. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

No members of the public attended.

7th July 2020

Time concluded: 8.28 p.m.