



## MINUTES OF THE PARISH COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON TUESDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2017 AT THE ALLENS, ALBION ROAD, MARDEN COMMENCING AT 7.30PM

- 043/17 PRESENT: Cllrs Adam, Cowin, Harvey, Mannington, Newton, Robertson and Tippen. The Clerk, Norman Kemp of Nu-Venture and one member of the public.
- 044/17 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE: Cllrs Boswell, Brown and Childs had given their apologies.
- 045/17 (a) REGISTERS OF INTEREST: There were no amendments to the Register of Interests  
(b) DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST: Cllrs Newton and Tippen declared an interest in item 048/17(g)  
(c) GRANTING OF DISPENSATION Cllrs Newton and Tippen had been granted dispensation of Memorial Hall issues.  
(d)
- 046/17 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING  
Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 11<sup>th</sup> July 2017 were agreed and signed as a true record.
- 047/17 IDENTIFICATION OF ITEMS INVOLVING PUBLIC SPEAKING: The member of the public wished to address the meeting during the public forum.

The meeting was adjourned for the following items:

Norman Kemp, Nu-Venture Bus Company, in attendance to discuss the bus service in Marden – Cllr Adam had spoken to Mr Kemp at the recent Rail Summit which resulted in this meeting. Mr Kemp has been owner of Nu-Venture for the past 16 years, it is a locally owned business and is independent. There is some funding is available from KCC but Nu-Venture try to listen to local people to offer the best services.

There is one commercial bus service to and from Marden (No. 28) to Maidstone which is primarily for scholars. KCC funds all other Marden buses which is approximately 5 per day Monday to Saturday. Buses to Marden are exceedingly limited and the contract is due for renewal next April but Mr Kemp was unsure whether KCC will alter the funding. There may be a need for lobbying by Parish Councils in regard to KCC funding.

Currently the 11-16 year olds benefit from the Young Persons Travel Pass Scheme and the 16-17 year olds have the 16+ bus scheme at an annual fee of £280. From this annual fee a token sum is paid to Nu-Venture when each pass is used. With senior citizens, over 64 are eligible for free bus, 94p per ride is passed to Nu-Venture. This is Government led and no further money forthcoming to fund this any better.

Mr Kemp is concerned over the number of developments in the area and although may be good for Nu-Venture with more passengers, it also means more cars/parking on the roads which slows the buses down. He questioned whether a developer could be approached to pay for a better bus service possibly through S106/developer contributions which would give something back to the village. MPC has explored the possibility of S106 funding in the past however a bus service is classed as revenue due to it being for the ongoing costs of the buses.

The Chairman opened the floor for Cllrs to comment as follows:

Travelling to and from Maidstone has become more more difficult as the last bus out of Maidstone is now 5.35pm and travels through all villages to Marden.

Extra housing could mean more customers and the railway station is relatively good but not always an easy option to travel to Maidstone.

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Proposed Park & Ride at Linton – MPC's view was that some of the buses going from that P&R site could travel south towards Marden so that residents from outside villages could access Marden station without having to drive.

Practical difficulty at the station in the mornings with the bus having to reverse into Chantry Road too enable it to make the journey back to Maidstone. MPC suggested that route could take in Plain Road and would therefore not need to reverse.

Mr Kemp responded as follows:

P&R – believes the Planning Inspector suggested that more P&R is needed and felt that MPC's suggestion was a sensible option

A proposal had been put forward by Ryarsh village to buy a bus which would provide a service at school time however the major cost was purchase of a bus so was unsure whether this had taken place.

Also mentioned CiL which might be a way to get something – ie a bus route could be classed as infrastructure but unsure whether this had occurred elsewhere.

Felt that using Plain Road may be an option however with the double decker there is a problem of overhanging trees. Nu-Venture has to inform KCC of the problem but it is an ongoing issue. MPC was asked to lobby Kent Highways if required. Another option was the possibility of using Admiral Way to turn instead and Mr Kemp would look at the feasibility of this.

Mr Kemp hoped to convene a meeting with South/South West parishes to discuss further and MPC would be invited to attend.

The Chairman thanked Mr Kemp for attending the meeting.

Mr Kemp left the meeting.

## PUBLIC FORUM

Member of the public, who was a resident of Highwood Green, moved into Marden in September and was concerned over the speeding along Goudhurst Road and parking on the junction with Pattenden Lane. The Chairman responded with what had been undertaken in the past and the problems that had been encountered. She explained that there would be an article in the next Newsletter regarding Goudhurst Road with the enhancement of the gateway, installing a SiD, puffin crossing outside the school; and more SYL/DYL at entrance to The Parsonage. Once all the traffic calming and highways work has been undertaken in Goudhurst Road MPC aim to look at what else can be done. The resident was interested in Speed Watch and would contact the Parish Council for further information.

The member of public left the meeting.

## EXTERNAL REPORTS

Police: 4 crimes since last meeting including 2 criminal damage (male arrested for one); 1 burglary and 1 vehicle broken into with items stolen. Other issues dealt with over the past month including anti-social issues at Highwood Green; neighbour disputes; parking issues at The Cockpit/Chantry Road; anti-social behaviour in the new play area; reports of cannabis in the playing field; 4 motorbikes seized at The Cockpit which had been ridden around the area with no insurance, foot patrols had been carried out around the area in the evenings and bike marking carried out at the Golding Homes event at The Cockpit.

An email had been received from PSCO Alan Hunter explaining the changes to the PCSO role over the next few months.

Community Warden: Not in attendance

The meeting was reconvened for the rest of the agenda

048/17 MATTERS ARISING FROM PREVIOUS MINUTES (for information only) No issues raised from previous minutes.

## 049/17 PARISH MATTERS

- (a) Local Needs Housing. Golding Homes had recently submitted an application to MBC for reserved matters on the Maidstone Road development.
- (b) Business Forums: Nothing to report on either Business Forum.

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- (c) Police: Updates had been received for Parish Councils giving details of specialist roles amongst PSCOs – see Police item above.
- (d) Communication
  - (i) Newsletter – The next edition was due to go to print on 25<sup>th</sup> August. Cllr Boswell had begun to draft the newsletter and had passed this to Cllr Tippen to finish drafting.
  - (ii) Website - details of Parish Councillors still to be add to the website along with photographs
- (e) Cemetery – Exclusive Right of Burial Certificates – there were no certificates to be signed
- (f) Updates from MBC and KCC: No updates received
- (g) Marden Memorial Hall waiting for quotes and report for fire doors – One quote had been received but Trustees were waiting for one more before submitting a report to Marden Parish Council.
- (h) MPC Vehicle Policy - An amended draft had previously circulated to Cllrs which was discussed at the meeting and further amendments made. The final document would be circulated following the meeting.
- (i) Maidstone Low Emissions Strategy and Air Quality consultation – details had previously been circulated to Cllrs – noted
- (j) MBC Parish Services Scheme survey form received – The Clerk had completed the majority of the form but was waiting for confirmation from KALC Area Committee before submitting. This had still not been received by the close of the meeting but as the return date was 4<sup>th</sup> September the Clerk would wait until then to see whether KALC replied.
- (k) Update on Caretaker position Interviews took place week commencing 31<sup>st</sup> July. The Chairman reported that a new Caretaker had been appointed and it was hoped that he could start on 21<sup>st</sup> August. Thanks were given to Cllr Newton for mowing whilst MPC had been without a caretaker.

#### 050/17 COMMITTEE REPORTS

- (a) Amenities Committee – Minutes of the Amenities meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> July had been previously circulated. The cisterniser had been replaced however several Cllrs and the Clerk had reported that it was still not working. The Clerk would contact the company before paying the invoice. Play Scheme had been successful again this year and thanks were expressed to the Clerk and members of staff. Meetings had been arranged for 23<sup>rd</sup> September to prepare the new section and cremated remains at the Cemetery for planting and 30<sup>th</sup> September to look at what can be done at Napoleon Drive open space and the rear of the playing field. All Cllrs are welcome to attend.
- (b) Planning Committee - Minutes of Planning Meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> July and 1<sup>st</sup> August had been previously circulated.
- (c) Finance Committee – There had been no Finance Meeting held since the last meeting
- (e) Other Conferences/Meetings attended:
  - Borough Councillor Meeting – 17<sup>th</sup> July notes previously circulated
  - Millwood Homes Meeting – 18<sup>th</sup> July notes previously circulated
  - County Councillor Meeting – 21<sup>st</sup> July notes previously circulated
  - Walkaround Chantry Road estate and the playing field with Borough Cllr David Burton – 3<sup>rd</sup> August notes previously circulated
  - Redrow Meeting – 7<sup>th</sup> August notes previously circulated
  - The Chairman briefed all in attendance of these meetings.
- (f) Conferences/Meetings for the coming months:
  - 14<sup>th</sup> September – KALC Clerks' Conference – Canterbury - the Clerk attending
  - 12<sup>th</sup> October – KALC Finance Conference – Ditton - Cllr Tippen and the Clerk attending

#### 051/17 CORRESPONDENCE

- (a) The Clerk Magazine – July edition – noted
- (b) Clerk & Councils Direct – July edition – noted
- (c) Parish Church .3Magazine – August edition - noted

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## 052/17 FINANCE

## (a) MPC Bank Balances

Revenue Accounts:

Nat West Business Reserve Account (as at 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017): £106,580.48

Nat West Current Account (as at 3<sup>rd</sup> August 2017): £0.00

Unity Account (as at 31<sup>st</sup> July 2017): £84,963.70

Capital Accounts:

Santander Account (as at 30<sup>th</sup> June 2017): £38,401.16

NS&I Account (as at 1<sup>st</sup> January 2017): £17,881.33

## (b) Invoices for Approval:

Cheque payments:

Chq No.	Payee	Details	Amount
5727	SSE	Electricity – Changing Rooms and Public Conveniences	£43.30
5728	Kent Association of Local Councils	Training x 3	£216.00
5729	Wicksteed	Under 5 Play Equipment	£38,598.00
5730	Cash	Petrol & Office Cleaning	£103.05
5731	Rams Hill	Mower repairs	£36.00
5732	Citizens Advice	Outreach session	£50.00

Invoices agreed and cheques signed by three Cllrs.

Electronic Payments:

Payee	Details	Amount
Kent County Council	Photocopier Rental	£286.54
Postage by Phone	Office/Newsletter postage	£100.00
Maidstone Borough Council	Cemetery waste collection	£54.17
Stackhouse Poland Ltd	Van Insurance	£290.31
Kent County Supplies	Play Scheme supplies	£20.22
Pitney Bowes	Franking Machine Rental	£15.54
Kent County Supplies	Play Scheme supplies	34.92
Viking	Play Scheme supplies	10.67
CLA Consulting	Office IT	341.19
Marden Memorial Hall	Youth Club hall hire, Office Rent	£413.00
Viking	Play Scheme supplies	£93.33
Alison Hooker	Meeting Refreshments, vehicle petrol and vehicle equipment	£92.72

Invoices agreed and three Cllrs to authorise payment on Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> August

- (c) Millwood Homes grant donation: Cllrs asked that the Clerk drafts a letter to the Managing Director with our concerns that they have not honoured their commitment to donate money towards the Memorial Hall.

## 053/17 HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC TRANSPORT

a) Highways

KCC Sign Cleaning – an email had been received from County Councillor Hotson regarding the road signage at Pattenden Lane bridge being cleaned

“Marden” village sign had disappeared from Goudhurst Road. Kent Highways had placed an order but may take up to 3 months before it is installed. The Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways in regarding to the gateway improvements along this road to ascertain whether a village sign would be incorporated into this.

Road closure at Albion Road from 19<sup>th</sup> August– The Clerk was asked to contact Kent Highways in regard to notifying all residents and businesses.

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(b) Public Transport

South Eastern Rail response – No correspondence had been received from South Eastern following the further letter sent by the Clerk in June. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to Helen Grant, cc'd to Mr David Statham, for assistance in getting a response.

There being no further business the meeting closed at 9.39pm

Signed: .....  
Chairman, Marden Parish Council

Date: 12<sup>th</sup> September 2017