



ROLVENDEN PARISH COUNCIL

MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 18th July, 2017 at 7.30pm, in the Pre-School Room, Rolvenden Village Hall, Maytham Road, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4ND for the purpose of transacting the following business:

Present: Cllr. Mr. D. Murray, Cllr. Mrs. D. Curtain, Cllr. Mr. G. Tiltman, Cllr. Mr. B. Hindley, Cllr. Mr. M. Hook, Cllr. Mrs. J. Stace, Cllr. Mr. Robin Wilcox, Cllr. Mr. J. Wilkins and the Clerk to the Council.

Apologies for absence: Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman – Illness.

(a) Declarations of Members' Disclosable Pecuniary Interests: *under the Localism Act 2011 to be made relating to items on this Agenda* – None.

(b) Declarations of Members' Other Significant Interests: *under the Kent Code of Conduct adopted in August 2012 by the Parish Council, to be made relating to items on the Agenda* – None

(c) Declarations of Members' other Interests: *not required to be disclosed under (a) and (b) but voluntary announcements made only for transparency reasons* – Cllr. Mr. Michael Hook declared his membership of the Weald of Kent Preservation Society and Cllr. Mr. John Wilkins declared his membership of the Church Fabric Committee for St. Mary The Virgin.

335. DRAFT MINUTES of the Parish Council Meeting held on Tuesday 20th June 2017, copies having previously been sent to each Parish Councillor, were agreed, approved and signed as a Correct Record after an amendment was made to Item 329 – Gift of Land to the War Memorial Trust. The word “in” was removed from the second line of the second paragraph.

336. Public Participation.

None.

337. Planning.

[i] Applications for CONSULTATION received from Ashford Borough Council were accepted and considered.

I7/00923/AS Relocation of existing access.

Swiss Cottage, Rolvenden Hill, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4JP.

337. Planning Continued.

I7/00923/AS

The Parish Council supports this application but asks that the Highways Department give serious consideration to the safety issue with regard to speeding traffic on Rolvenden Hill. Also, that the hedge is replaced within a strict time limit.

I7/00949/AS Extension to south west elevation and single storey porch to north west Elevation.

Maytham Farmhouse, Maytham Rd, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4QA

The Parish Council supports this application.

I7/00963/AS Listed building application for the above.

The Parish Council leaves this in the hands of the Listed Building Officer.

I7/00957/AS Single storey side extension with balcony above, conversion of garage to Living accommodation, erection of front porch.

Duck and Drake, Sandhurst Lane, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4PQ.

The Parish Council supports this application.

I7/00983/AS Single storey rear extension.

13 Sparkeswood Avenue, Rolvenden, Cranbrook, Kent TN17 4LU.

The Parish Council supports this application.

[ii] Applications for CONSULTATION received from Ashford Borough Council between 11th July and 18th July were accepted and considered.

None.

[iii] Consent GRANTED by Ashford Borough Council to the following applications were accepted and considered.

None.

337. Planning Continued.

[iv] Halden Field.

Related matters were accepted and considered.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley mentioned that he is in agreement with the Chairman over the type of bricks to be used in the construction of the properties by Taylor Wimpey.

The Chairman mentioned that he met with Lucy Holloway to discuss the bricks and other materials that are to be used in the construction. She agreed that the Wealden bricks would be better for the construction and that she would pass on the Parish Council's suggestions to Taylor Wimpey.

Cllr. Murray sent an e-mail in respect of the above to the developer's surveyor with the result that he received an automated message that the relevant person was on maternity leave.

The current position is that the comments from Taylor Wimpey are awaited.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain to follow this up upon Lucy Holloway's return from leave.

In addition, Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley expressed various concerns in respect of the design of the new development.

[v] Barratt Field.

Related matters were accepted and considered.

After discussion, it was of some concern that a breach of planning permission may become an issue should there be any future disputes over access.

In respect of the Lease Agreement between Edward Barham and the Football Club, the Clerk informed Members that he had been told verbally that the Football Club were not prepared to provide a copy of this Lease.

[vi] Planning Related Issues.

Items not mentioned elsewhere on the Agenda were accepted and considered.

As a matter for information, Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain mentioned that permission had now been obtained to fell the Ash tree on Rolvenden Layne field and, as a condition of the permission, a tree must be planted to replace it in the Autumn.

338. Neighbourhood Development Plan.

The new draft of changes to the Ashford Local Plan has been issued. Two weeks ago, central government told Ashford Borough Council that in addition to the 15,000 new houses required, they need to provide another 250 which should be in areas that are more prosperous which may indicate surrounding villages. This information is anecdotal and not formal.

Two issues that are holding up the Development Plan are the maps and the vehicular access assessment to the Kingsgate site.

339. Highways.

All related matters were accepted and considered.

[i] Yellow Lines in Halden Lane.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mr. Duncan Murray mentioned that the concerns with respect to the yellow lines and the imposition of restrictions were passed to Taylor Wimpey. He subsequently received an e-mail from a Mr. Taylor at Taylor Wimpey requesting a meeting on-site. The meeting took place and Mr. Taylor agreed that the yellow line did not have to extend down to Gatefield. Mr. Taylor subsequently agreed to drop restrictions on Saturdays and that the restriction will not come into force until 7.30am rather than 7.00am.

[ii] 'A' Boards in the Village.

The Clerk advised that he has spoken to Kent County Council and the rules that apply are that before a retailer or commercial enterprise uses an 'A' Board they must first complete an Agreement form and submit it to Kent County Council. The Parish Council is free to police the 'A' Boards (with respect to size and siting issues etc.) and if there are persistent offenders then Kent County Council will enforce the rules. Kent County Council also advised that they would be happy to carry out a site visit if we require this.

[iii] Fire Hydrants.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain mentioned that she e-mailed everyone with lists of hydrant locations with initials of the Member assigned to check each of the hydrants. Once received back, this information will be compiled and sent to Kent Fire and Rescue.

[iv] Other Highways related issues not mentioned elsewhere on the Agenda were accepted and considered.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain advised that Ashford Borough Council are not prepared to put a knee rail up in Sparkeswood Avenue but that they were agreeable to a white line. Cllr. Curtain is still awaiting an update from Ashford Borough Council in this respect.

Cllr. Mr. Michael Hook advised of two issues in the village that need reporting to Kent County Council Highways. Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain will report these via the KCC website. And Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman mentioned the faded road name sign at Monypenny.

The Clerk mentioned the disabled access signs that were installed by Cllr. Tiltman.

340. Rolvenden Village Hall.

Rolvenden Village Hall Committee's request for a contribution to the Business Rates that have become payable for the Village Hall.

Mr. Fred May, the Chairman of the Village Hall Committee attended and substantiated his letter to the Parish Council (copy of which was available to each Member).

The Village Hall, for the first time, has come under the new rating scheme and are £500 over the limit where the hall gets full business rate relief and as such, the £500 has cost the hall £1,250. The Committee are in the process of trying to appeal.

The Village Hall has approximate funds in the sum of £20,000 which includes working money and a contingency fund. They also have a maintenance fund. Under the term of the deeds the Committee are obliged to keep the hall in good order and, in addition, to keep back 6 months' worth of expenses.

The Parish Council were advised that hall bookings were increasing but although the Village Hall appears to be financially stable on paper, they are in fact just keeping their heads above water. Mr. May mentioned that the Borough Council took the funds that the Village Hall has as being a single figure rather than recognising that it is, in fact, split into different funds.

The Chairman, Cllr. Mr Duncan Murray asked Mr. Fred May if he had a figure in mind that he wished to ask for as a donation. Mr. May said that he would leave it to the Parish Council to determine a figure.

The Chairman invited Members to put any questions to Mr. May.

Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain expressed concern over the Village Hall being able to continue to pay the Business Rates on an ongoing yearly basis. In response, Mr. May said that bookings were increasing and he mentioned the fund-raising events that take place regularly and that the Village Hall was currently reviewing its hiring charges. They were also exploring grants from other sources.

Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman proposed that the Parish Council make a contribution of £1,000 towards the cost of the Business Rates for the Village Hall. This was seconded by Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain.

A vote was taken and it was unanimously agreed to contribute £1,000.

The Clerk to liaise with Mr. May over the next few days to arrange the payment.

341. Allotments.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley enquired regarding the letter to be sent to Miss. Thoburn. It was mentioned at the last meeting that various people need to be spoken to prior to sending the letter but this has not proved possible. Therefore, a letter will be drafted by Cllr. Mrs. Denise Curtain and sent by the Clerk.

342. Section 106 of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley enquired whether a request for refurbishment of the toilet facilities at the Cricket Club could be sent to Ashford Borough Council for consideration under Section 106.

A new request will be sent to Ashford Borough Council in respect of all items.

343. Grass Mowing – Cricket Ground.

Members were advised that Jon Oakeley now has new equipment to enable him to mow the Cricket Club grass to an acceptable length. Jon mentioned that he had spoken to Kevin from the Cricket Club and was informed that he likes to cut the grass himself. It was agreed that Jon Oakeley be allowed to try cutting the Cricket Club grass to have his work assessed.

344. Deed of Gift to the War Memorial Trust.

Cllr. Mr. Brian Hindley advised that the matter is going back to the Judge to award costs and the result should be known at the end of July.

345. Neighbourhood Watch.

A copy of an e-mail from the Neighbourhood Watch was discussed with regard to a meeting about policing with the possibility of a Member attending. Normally this would be done by Cllr Mrs. Irene Newman but due to ill health this was not possible. Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman agreed to take on this role.

346. Proposed Main Changes to the Ashford Local Plan 2030.

This was covered within Item 338 Neighbourhood Development Plan due to the overlap of information.

346(a).Residents Dispute at Glebe Field.

Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman referred to an e-mail received from a resident via the website concerning a dispute between residents in Glebe Field. This is not a matter that can be dealt with by the Parish Council and this item is for information only.

347. Finance.

[i] It was resolved to pay the following:

J.P. Oakeley	£ 680.00
Kent Association of Local Councils	£ 579.38
Rolvenden Pre-School	£1,000.00
Ina Hemsley	£ 35.00 (amended from £70.00)
Mr. S. Brooks	£ 140.00
Clerk's Wages	£ 344.40

[ii] Accounts presented at this meeting were accepted and considered.

The Clerk advised that an invoice had been received from Ashford Borough Council in the sum of £2,443.99 in respect of the installation of knee rails in the Village.

It was agreed that this be paid.

[iii] Financial matters not mentioned elsewhere on the Agenda were accepted and considered.

Cllr. Mr. Michael Hook gave the Clerk £5.00 for a copy of the Rolvenden Parish 100 book sold by Linklaters.

348. Other Matters for Information. – *issues may be raised which involve no more than an exchange of information. NO DECISIONS can lawfully be made on matters raised under this exchange.*

LGA1972 Sch. 12.

- (1) Cllr. Mr. Graham Tiltman advised that Cllr. Mrs. Irene Newman was concerned about the hedge that surrounds the field where Mr. Bryant keeps his Bullocks in that it is overhanging the road. It was suggested by Cllr. Curtain that Vegetation Notices be sent out to appropriate residents.
- (2) Cllr. Tiltman advised that he has been accepted for the role as Village Correspondent for the Kentish Express.
- (3) Cllr. Curtain asked the Clerk to include more detail for items on the Agenda so that Members are clearer on what needs to be discussed.
- (4) Cllr. Curtain mentioned the dance classes that were due to be held in the main hall at the same time as Parish Council Meetings and the Clerk advised that the "sound trial" would need to take place next month due to holidays.

- (5) Cllr. Curtain showed Members a card that was received from the Pre-School to thank the Parish Council for their financial donation.
- (6) Cllr. Curtain showed a card complimenting the Parish Council on the standard of cutting of the field at Rolvenden Layne.
- (7) Cllr. Curtain requested that her "Councillor" e-mail address now be used to alleviate the congestion in her Inbox.
- (8) Cllr. Mr. Duncan Murray mentioned the new version of the "Good Councillor Guide" and the Clerk said he would provide a copy to any Member who requested one.