

MINSTER PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the Meeting of the Council held in the Neighbourhood Centre, Minster

on 2nd November 2021 at 7.00pm

Present: Councillors: Mrs. Gimes (Chairman), Jones, Crow-Brown, Day, Quittenden, Torbett, McCarthy, Mills, Owen, Fleming.

Also present: Kyla Lamb (Clerk to the Council), Clare Wilsdon (Assistant Clerk to the Council), Community Warden Karl Aylett, PCSO Forsyth.

162. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Cllr Burden and Cllr Reece Pugh (TDC)

163. MINUTES

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Council meeting held on 5th October 2021 be approved.

164. MEMBERS INTERESTS

No members interests noted.

165. POLICING AND COMMUNITY WARDEN REPORT

PCSO Forsyth reported as follows;

Crimes of note;

- Numerous reports of evading paying for fuel at the petrol station.
- Theft of a motorbike in Tothill Street, (later returned).
- Suspicious activity in Watchester Lane, possibly hare-coursing.
- One report of criminal damage.

Anti-social behaviour;

- Verbal abuse suffered by staff at the Co-op.
- Reports of anti-social behaviour in the village and two reports of non-permanent criminal damage. ASB car patrols have been increased.

Items of good work

- More vulnerable people identified and have been sign-posted to the relevant services.

Community Warden Aylett reported as follows:

- Anti-social behaviour reports received. These were passed to the PCSO and also encouraged to report via 101.
- With help from Trading standards, assisted a vulnerable resident avoid being scammed.

- Reports made to Highways following complaints about local roads being covered in mud and in a dangerous condition from tractors leaving Marsh Farm Road.
- Temporary traffic-lights that were not working, reported to the relevant agency.
- Pot holes reported.

166. COUNTY COUNCILLOR & DISTRICT COUNCILLORS REPORTS

Cllr Crow-Brown reported as follows;

- Proposed Cycle Track Minster to Cliffsend Parkway Station – James Wraight (KCC Highways) has been in touch with TDC Planning regarding using Sec 106 monies towards the proposed scheme and is awaiting a response.
- Members Funding Grant - £500 has been given to assist with setting up Minster Shed Project. The scheme is to help combat loneliness and mental health problems, particularly in retired adults. Men's Sheds is an international organisation originating in Australia.
- £8M KCC fund to boost Kent growth and jobs – Businesses across Kent are being invited to apply for interest free loans between £100-£500K to help realise their ambitions for growth and support Kent's economic recovery. Further details are available on KCC's website.

Cllr Pugh was not present.

Ken de Rose (Liberal Democrat), Abi Smith (Green party) and Guy Wilson (Conservative), election candidates for Thanet Villages Ward District Councillor were all in attendance.

167. CHAIRMAN'S ANNOUNCEMENT

Cllr. Mrs Gimes reminded members that a Remembrance service will be held at the Church on Sunday 14th November 2021 followed by a short service at the cemetery.

The annual Firework display will be held at 7pm on Friday 5th November 2021 at the recreation ground and collection buckets will be made available, the proceeds of which will go to the Church Clock Restoration Fund. Refreshments will be provided by Minster Food Station.

The School Council have made a request for funding. Students within the school are elected and use the money to fund other activities that raise further money.

AGREED: To donate £100 from the Clarkes Educational Fund to the School council.

The Chain of Office is currently waiting to be taken and gilded. The cost of gold has risen so the overall cost for this may increase.

Several residents raised concerns over soil-sampling and other activity observed taking place in the field east of Tothill Street, and queried whether this may relate to the recent Call for Sites by TDC and the Local Plan review. Cllr Pugh enquired with Bob Porter (TDC) who advised that there will be a further call for sites due to the lack of response to the last one. Results of this will be published at a later date.

A group of artists contacted the council and asked for permission to paint a Halloween themed mural on the graffiti wall at the skatepark. On its completion, some complaints were received about an inappropriate image. The artists quickly altered the image and apologised for any offence that it may have caused. The group have asked if they may return at Christmas to paint another mural. The general feed back is that it was well received.

168. REPORT OF THE CLERK

The Clerk reported that Kent County Council has received emergency grant funding from central government under the Contain Outbreak Management Fund (COMF), to be used to support efforts towards preventing or containing the spread of COVID-19 and/or helping those that have been disproportionately affected by the pandemic. KALC has been liaising with KCC on the COMF as Parish, Town and Community Councils have played a vital role in contributing towards COMF objectives. As such, funding has been allocated per Parish, Town and Community Council in recognition of the additional costs they may have incurred between 1st November 2020 and 31st March 2022. An application will be discussed at the December meeting.

169. DOCUMENTS AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION

None.

170. SECTION 106 AGREEMENT

The Highways Improvement Plan has been updated. The request for additional yellow lines will follow the usual consultation process. The other requests may be slower to action, possibly into the next financial year.

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

The Chairman reported that the asset transfer of the car parks and toilets is now complete and work on them can begin. Cllr Quittenden asked the Clerk about insurance. The Clerk undertook to contact our insurers to inform them of the new assets and arrange suitable cover.

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

A letter was written to Savills regarding the land for the proposed cemetery extension. They replied that they would include that in the sale terms of the land and hope that a sale will take place in November and the new owners information will be forwarded to the Parish Council. A new fence has recently been erected across the field and the Chairman has contacted Savills to clarify the reason for this.

173. OPERATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Operations Committee meeting held on 4th October 2021 be received.

174. COMMUNICATIONS COMMITTEE

RESOLVED: That the Minutes of the Communications Committee meeting held on 4th October 2021 be received.

175. SKATEPARK AND BUND

The retrospective planning application for the bund has been approved. A grant of up to £1500 for hedging and trees may be available from the Tree Council and an application is being prepared.

176. NEW PARISH OFFICE BUILDING PUBLIC CONSULTATION

Public consultation on the new parish office building has been carried out via a Facebook poll and the same poll information has been included in Minster Matters. The poll explains the proposal for the new parish office at the recreation ground and the proposed funding of £84,000 from Reserves and £110,000 application for borrowing for the Public Works Loan Board. The Poll refers the public to our website to view the plans and the report to Council. The Clerk reported that the poll on Facebook received 140 views of which 53 were in support of the build and 16 were against.

The Poll was also in Minster Matters Parish Magazine which is delivered to 1850 homes. 25 responses were received from Minster Matters, of which 22 were in support and 3 were against. Our post of the project on Minster Parish Council Facebook page reached 2204 people. The post was shared showing the proposal on Marvellous Minster group. This received 69 comments, the majority of which were in support of the proposal.

177. MINSTER SHED PROJECT REQUEST FOR FUNDING

Cllr Burden was absent but deferred to Cllr Quittenden, who provided an update on the progress of this project. The group now have premises secured in an outbuilding at the Bell Inn and have opened a bank account. Members views were sought on the possibility of providing funding for the project.

AGREED: To defer the item to the December meeting in order for further information to be provided.

178. REQUEST FROM THE ENVIRONMENT AGENCY TO DRILL A GROUNDWATER SAMPLING BOREHOLE AT MINSTER RECREATION GROUN

Members considered a request to install a borehole at the recreation ground. The Clerk explained that she had spoken to the Environment Agency and explained to Members what equipment would be used and that installation would take 1-2 days

RESOLVED: To approve the request to carry out the work as detailed, subject to the Clerk agreeing head of terms with the estates department at the Environment Agency.

179. PLANNING APPLICATIONS

Cllr Crow-Brown provided an update as follows;

Applications

F/TH/21/1420 – 137 Monkton Road, Minster

Erection of a first floor extension with 3No dormers to the front elevation 3No dormers to the rear elevation and a Juliet balcony to the west elevation.

NO OBJECTION

Decisions

F/TH/21/1303 – Skateboard Park, King Georges Field, St Mildred's Road, Minster

Retrospective application for the construction of an earth bund.

GRANTED

TH/TPO/21/1473 – 115 Tothill Street, Minster

9No Holm Oak. Crown reduce by 2-3m, crown thin by 25%

GRANTED

TPO/TH/21/1263 – 33 Hill House Drive, Minster

TH/TPO/5(1991) -G1- Group of sycamores - crown reduction of 1.5m in height and 1m crown reduction to sides, G2 – Sycamore – crown raise 4m from ground level, Field Maple-crown reduction of 0.5m and 15% crown thin, Sallow – crown reduction of 1m and 10% crown thin, 1 No. Ash (T1) – crown reduction of 0.5m, 1 No. Sycamore (T2) – crown reduction of 4-5m (H1) Bay hedge to be cut back and top reduced by 20%

GRANTED

FH/TH/21/0965 - Chapel House, Thorne Hill, Minster

Change of use of existing main building to wedding/function venue with accommodation together with associated development including; erection of single storey pitched roof function room, together with erection of 8no. single storey guest / visitor lodges, formation of parking area, alteration to access (north), associated operational development, including alterations to existing buildings and landscaping

GRANTED

L/TH/21/0966 – Chapel House, Thorne Hill, Minster

Application for listed building consent for internal and external alterations to Chapel House including: internal partitions, balustrade to first floor terrace and alterations to fenestration, glazed infill of open sided structure; together with internal alterations to existing granary building to facilitate its conversion into a wedding ceremony room including alterations to fenestration and new handrail to external stairs.

GRANTED

180. COMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVE REPORTS

Members received reports from representatives of the following bodies:

TALC

Cllr Quittenden reported that a meeting was held on 18th October.

Guest speaker on Climate Change with Dr Hanner Scott (TDC Climate change officer) who gave a comprehensive speech but was unable to confirm what budget TDC had set aside.

Terry Martin (KALC) is leaving in January 2021 as he has re-located to Ireland.

Cllr Pennington (Westgate Town Council) has stood down from the committee and Cllr Quittenden has agreed to take the seat on the joint transport board at TDC.

Next meeting date is 15th November 2021.

Minster School The Chairman reported that the school is fully subscribed for this academic year.

Twinning Assn. Cllr Burden was not present. The recent quiz at the RBL was very successful.

181. REPORT OF THE RFO

RESOLVED:

- (a) the Bank balance statement be received and noted,**
- (b) the statement of Receipts and Payments for the month of October 2021 be approved.**

182. QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

Barba Quittenden asked whether the Shed Project might be eligible to apply for the KALC Contain Outbreak Management Fund. The Clerk responded that this would not fit the criteria. Abi Smith (Green party candidate) suggested the fund could be used for some public health signage on the public toilet walls.

Alan Gimes said he was appalled by behavior of officers at TDC and suggested there should be a call for resignation by TDC leaders. Cllr Crow-Brown said that a Local Government Peer review was to be expected.

Peter Burton raised a concern that the road by Spenser's pond has been flooded again and that the drainage there requires a proper fix. There are existing drainage rights into the pond.

Time concluded: 8.10pm

7th December 2021