

3/19

**MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD
ON TUESDAY 19th MARCH 2019 AT IGHTHAM VILLAGE HALL AT 7.30pm**

PRESENT: Cllr Willingham (Chairman), Cllr Holden (Vice Chairman), Cllr Brierley, Cllr Burgham, Cllr Cracknell, Cllr Hall, Cllr Mitchem, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllr Betts and 3 members of the public

1. **APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE** - Cllr Brewer & Cllr Edge-McKenna
2. **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS** - None
3. **MINUTES** - The Minutes of the Meeting held on 19 February 2019 were approved and signed as a true record.
4. **UPDATE FROM BOROUGH COUNCILLOR** – Cllr Betts reported that the new waste services contact had started and that there would be a settling in period with the new recycling collections being phased in from September 2019. TMBC have offered to do presentations to Parishes about the new service and the Clerk confirmed that we had already taken up the offer and a representative would be talking at our annual parish meeting in April. Under the new contract, residents will be issued with new bins and a leaflet has been circulated to household outlining the changes to collections. Food waste and recycling will be collected kerbside. Cllr Burgham asked whether bins would be issued to residents at Leathercote Corner as they currently have to use refuse sacks. Cllr Betts will look into this.
Cllr Betts said that there is a shop frontage grant scheme in operation which provides funding to improve village shops on High Streets, this in itself is not relevant for Ightham but Cllr Betts said that any funding not taken up may possibly be diverted to other rural businesses such as public houses.
Re Brexit, TMBC have been busy making preparations for a no deal Brexit as they are anticipating issues with transport. Operation Brock will come into effect to hold HGV's on M20 and M26 in the event of hold-ups at Dover and this will inevitably cause difficulties on our local roads. In order to maintain services, TMBC have invested in laptops for staff so that they can work from home if local roads become congested.
Cllr Holden reported that a resident had complained about the black bin that has been left on the junction of A25 and Old Lane for several months. The Clerk and Cllr Betts have asked Waste Services to investigate and Cllr Betts has requested that we provide an address so that TMBC can write to the owners.
5. **UPDATE FROM COUNTY COUNCILLOR** - Cllr Rayner reported that the A25 had recently been surveyed and all weak areas have been filled and gulleys emptied within the last 6 weeks. Cllr Rayner reported that M26 would be used to hold HGV's in the event that other holding areas en route to Dover are full. There is capacity for around 10,000-15,000 vehicles on the M20 junction 2-8, Manston Airfield and Dover Tip. If M26 is used, West Kent will experience traffic issues which will extend to M25 and Kent Highways are trying to persuade the Department of Transport to hold HGV's in the Midlands and in the north of the country as there are a number of sites that could hold upto 10,000 vehicles which would be around 24 hours worth of capacity. In Kent, lorry drivers will be issued with a number which will determine their place in the port access queue; this will hopefully prevent lorry drivers using the country lanes to queue jump. Other ports such as Felixtowe and Harwich have not been considered as an alternative to Dover.
Kent Highways had been given an extra £30 million towards road strengthening and money will be used for resurfacing and improvements. As part of this project, the A227 at Meopham will be resurfaced and there will be night closures.
Cllr Rayner reported that the intention to keep Borough Green Library open had not been successful and that its hours would be reduced to 27 hours a week. Hildenborough Library has been reclassified so will keep its existing hours. There will be a further consultation process however. An article had appeared in the Chronicle to say that Parishes would be funding the shortfall in hours; Cllr Rayner confirmed that this was misleading as the Parishes had only indicated that they would be willing to consider some funding once they knew what the cost would be. At this stage it is merely an expression of interest.
Cllr Rayner gave thanks to Cllr Cracknell for the update on the Busty Stream and he has now received confirmation from Max Tant that the works to the bridge will go ahead in June. Funding will still be available despite this delay.

Signed.....R Willingham.....Dated...16 April 2019.....

6. PUBLIC

A member of public introduced himself and said that he would be standing as an Independent candidate in the Borough Council elections.

A member of public reported that the lines had faded outside Wellwood where the drainage issue has been marked and that the carriageway had flooded again on the weekend.

7. PLANNING

TM/19/00353/LB - The Harrow Cottage, Common Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent, TN15 9EB. Listed Building Application: Proposed repairs and refurbishment consisting of timber roof member treatment repairs and alterations; internal timber treatment throughout cottage generally; chimney stack partial reconstruction; first floor joist structural integrity improvements; first floor sound proofing improvements; replace modern concrete ground floor with a new floor and under floor heating; structural tie/restraint to north flank/internal cross walls; underpins to existing foundations at north east flank walls, and replacement of all rotting timber windows and modern main entrance door – “No objection.”

TM/19/00375/FL - Crown Point Nursery, Sevenoaks Road, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 0HB. Retention of existing storage container for use as cafe' and retail kiosk and associated engineering works. “No objection.”

TM/19/00499/TNCA - The Well Springs, Rectory Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Kent TN15 9AJ. T1 Cherry Tree - fell, T2 - T9 - Conifers - fell and replant with Silver Birch/Fruit Trees and T10 - T11 - Acacias T10 - T11) – fell. “No objection.”

TM/19/00501/FL – Bank House, Trycewell Lane, Ightham, Sevenoaks, Tn15 9HL. First floor extension and internal alterations. “Ightham Parish Council has various concerns about this application: the bulk of the building and change to the street scene given the prominent position in the village. The Parish Council would like to confirm whether change of use was granted for the garage. Consideration should be given to where the builders vehicles park should permission be granted. We leave to TMBC to determine”

Planning Decisions – Approved

TM18/02931/FL & TM18/02932/LB - The retention, refurbishment and conversion of Crickets Farmhouse into offices with access, parking and landscaping works, and extensions to create a garden room and lobby/entrance area - The Old Farmhouse.

TM18/01875/LRD - Details of condition 3 (sample panel) pursuant to listed building planning permission **TM/17/01355/LB** (Listed Building Application: Construction of a two storey rear extension and restoration of the listed cottage comprising internal and external alterations) - Harrow Cottage.

19/00099/TNCA - Mature Leyland Cypress - fell 8 trees from house to low wall - The Old Forge.

Planning Decisions – Refused

19/00081/FL - Proposed loft conversion with 2no. link pitched dormer to rear elevation and 2no. conservation style rooflights to front elevation - 3 Oldbury Cottages.

Planning Appeal – Land at Rose Wood and Stone Acre – No further comments.

8. LOCAL PLAN – Borough Green Gardens - Inspectors Update – TMBC have released new data from Natural England and Historic England. Natural England have commented on the impact of Borough Green Gardens on AONB and air quality and have raised some strong objections. The Environment Agency have also indicated that they don't think that the development is sustainable. Previously there has been a difficulty in identifying alternative sites if Borough Green Gardens doesn't go ahead but on 6th March, KCC gave consent to Aylesford Heritage Ltd to provide a layout of built development platforms on the Aylesford Quarry site. The site is no longer needed in the minerals plan. The site could take up to 1000 houses. TMBC have resisted this consent and threatened a judicial review. TMBC refused a separate application for housing on the eastern side of the quarry and it has now gone to appeal. It was turned down on the basis that the quality of the impact assessment wasn't good enough. The site is behind Aylesford village in the wharf area and would require new roads to make it accessible. The area is not within greenbelt or AONB and hasn't been included in the local plan. If all experts come forward and cite this as an alternative site it is believed that it will be difficult to turn down.

Signed.....R Willingham.....Dated...16 April 2019.....

Anyone who has responded to the local plan consultation should have received correspondence from TMBC to say that Inspectors have been appointed. They will be looking into the soundness of the plan and considering whether it is deliverable and consistent with National Planning Policy.

9. MATTERS ARISING

Highways Matters – Various potholes:

- on A227 to Copt Hall including outside the Bower House, upper Rectory Lane.

- outside Windy Ridge and High Pines on Ismays Road; outside Robins Rest on Back Lane.

Road erosion between Borough Green Surgery and Reynolds entrance (we are not sure whether this is a public highway). The Keep Left sign at the bottom of Oldbury Lane is out and a gully outside the Cob Tree is blocked. Cllr Holden said that the bollards are still out on A25 at junctions with Oldbury and Common Road. The Clerk reported that this had been reported since 2012 and Cllr Rayner asked that details are forwarded to him so that he can take it up with Kent Highways for inclusion in the current A25 maintenance programme.

The Clerk reported that she had received an email from Kent Highways following an enquiry about having a no HGV/width restriction sign at the end of Busty Lane. We have been asked whether the Parish Council could provide funding. The Clerk was asked to respond confirming that the Parish Council would be prepared to assist with funding and to ask for advice about the recommended type of signage and costs involved. Cllr Rayner said that we would be able to purchase our own sign if approved, which may be cheaper.

Village Traffic Matters - Traffic calming, 30mph Zone, parking – The Clerk reported that she had contacted Les Henry Associates and he would like to set up a meeting to look at the various areas at the end of the month. The Clerk will send the maps and wish list. Cllr Cracknell reported that a resident had said that a car was often parked near the junction of A227 and Ismays Road. The clerk was asked to check what the Highway Code states about safe parking distances from junctions.

Scout Hut/Pavilion – Update - Cllr Holden reported that the build is coming along nicely and is in line with the plans and on target re time and budget. The 3rd stage has been completed and a request for payments for Stage 2 and Stage 3 has just been submitted (see below). The Clerk was asked to check that the stages had been signed off by the Architect. A comment was made that some donations hadn't been acknowledged. Cllr Holden will take this up with the Scouts.

Tennis Club Lights – Update – Further to our previous decision on waiting to see what the application for external Scout Hut lighting would involve, Cllr Willingham suggested that we should install an electrical connection as preparation for any future path lights. Parish Clerk to ask the Scouts. Cllr Mitchem reported that the Tennis Club had recently been broken into.

Ightham Cricket Club – Update - It was reported that the Club sign had been removed.

Busty Stream/ Flooding – Update - Flood Action Group - Bridge Works – Cllr Cracknell reported that the works to the dodgy bridge had been scheduled for June. The property flood resilience work is already under way and has been well received by residents. The Flood Forum Group had had a walk through of the Busty with a representative from KCC (Emma Burdett) and she had given advice on maintenance requirements. A letter will be issued to the riparian owners concerned and Mrs Burdett has offered to meet them to provide further detailed maintenance guidance. The Clerk confirmed that we have received the grant funding from Cllr Rayner and gave thanks.

Recreation Ground – ROSPA repairs, barrier – The Clerk has spoken with James Hayward about repairs to the playground fence. A brief discussion followed about putting up a low level fence as a barrier from the car park to the recreation ground. This will be deferred until the scout hut is completed.

Pitch Levelling – Football Club – We have had a request from the Football Club to consider pitch levelling. It was agreed to obtain a survey to see what is required. Cllr Holden will speak to James Hitchcock.

Car Park – Pot holes and future resurfacing - Cllr Willingham reported the potholes in the car park had been filled with Type 1. We have budgeted for maintenance to the car park but as previously stated we are unable to resurface the car park with tarmac as planning permission stipulated that a porous surface was required.

Broadband – Update - an article has been sent to Cllr Cracknell with an update for the Ightham Magazine.

Defibrillator – Training 2019 – The Clerk reported that she had only had one request for training so it was agreed not to proceed with a training session.

Allotment Leases – Request to purchase Land – It was decided that the Parish Council would not be willing to sell the land, as it was a Parish Council asset.

Bus Stop Back Lane – Nothing to report.

Signed.....R Willingham.....Dated...16 April 2019.....

Malcolm Ravenhill Memorial Stone – The Close, Fen Pond Road. The Clerk reported that following the last meeting she had contacted the Shoreham Aircraft Museum about a suitable site for the memorial stone. They have looked again at the suggestions and think that the grassed area at The Close would be suitable. The Clerk was asked to write to the residents and TMBC to see whether this would be acceptable. Cllr Willingham reported the footpath by The Close had been resurfaced but poorly finished. The Clerk was asked to take a photo and send to Cllr Rayner to take up with Highways.

Waste & Recycling & Great British Spring Clean - Litter Pick – Saturday 30th March 2019. The Clerk reported that TMBC will be providing some equipment. The Clerk has produced posters for display throughout the village. It was suggested that it was also publicised via social media. The Clerk was asked to chase up litter collections along A25.

Website – Upgrade and Change of host – The Clerk reported that she had met with Gel Creative about upgrading our website and web host and making our website compliant with new EU regulations on accessibility. Gel Creative has recently upgraded the website for Addington and Trottiscliffe PC's. We are awaiting a quote.

Annual Parish Meeting – Arrangements – Thursday 25th April – The Clerk was asked to invite Tom Tugendhat to the meeting. All other arrangements would be the same as in previous years. Clubs will be limited to a 3 minute presentation.

10. FINANCE & POLICY

Online banking – The Clerk was asked to find out whether Unity Trust Bank had a Deposit Account that we could open.

Financial Regulations – Approval - These were approved and can go on the website.

Data Protection & Email addresses – The Clerk will look into Office 365 for Councillor email addresses. Previous reports that it would no longer be supported appear unfounded.

The following accounts were submitted for payment: Proposed by Cllr Hall and seconded by Cllr Cracknell

Parish Clerk Salary & Expenses March	£665.72
HMRC – Employer Tax (<i>nil to pay as credit on account</i>)	£9.40
Gel Creative - March (OLT)	,£40.00
Saul Cullen –Laptop Healthcheck	£50.00
The Counselling Centre	£100.00
Anthony Edwards – Maintenance to Parish Council	£687.84
Anthony Edwards – Maintenance to Churchyard	£1,442.45
EDF- Electricity to pavilion	£83.79
Ightham Village Hall	£255.00
Second and third stage payments for Ightham Scout pavilion	£40,000.00
Openreach Billing Team (CNS) 48 Broadband at Scout Hut	£836.32
Latitude – Professional Fees Scout pavilion	£2,400
Transfer to Unity Bank	£5,000
Castle Water – Water Rates	£25.92
Total	£51,587.04

Current Account: £21,231.33 Deposit Account £215,932.11

Unity Bank £460

Transfer from Deposit to Current Account £40,00.00

11. PARISH ELECTIONS – 2ND May 2019 – Timetable and nomination forms. Forms were duly completed and Cllr Mitchem offered to deliver them to TMBC.

12. CORRESPONDENCE

Grange Park School - Education Consultation. Kent County Council (KCC), is proposing to make the following changes to Grange Park School, Borough Green Road; increase the designated number of places offered from 100 to 150; alter the lower age range from 11 to 8 years (11-19 to 8-19 years); and to establish a 36 place Key Stage 2 satellite facility at the former Stansted CE Primary School site from 1st July 2019. The consultation period will take place from Monday 25 February 2019 to Sunday 07 April 2019. No objection.

Kent Resilience Forum – Parish Pack – Circulated.

Signed.....R Willingham.....Dated...16 April 2019.....

Request for access to property from Village Hall Car Park – The Clerk was asked to seek legal advice on what is involved and then write to all residents who currently have access.

13. AOB – Cllr Willingham reported that Bob Lee Amies would be retiring and suggested that the areas he currently maintains should be divided between Anthony Edwards and James Hayward. The Clerk will write accordingly.

The meeting closed at 9.40pm.

