

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE CURRAN HALL ON MONDAY
18 DECEMBER 06 AT 19.55 HOURS**

PRESENT: Cllrs: Bearman, Boyle, Crawford (Chairman), Gardner, Poole, Street & Whiteside

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. K Bell (Clerk), Mr Clymer (Peter Clymer Partnership) & 3 residents

1. **Apologies for absence:** Received and accepted from Cllrs. Mrs Curry & Shead

2. **Declarations of Interests:** There were none.

3. **Reports from County & Borough Councillors:** No reports were received.

4. **Parishioners Question Time**

a. **Friends of St Michaels Church**

It was reported that a letter had been received regarding the ownership of the wooden seat outside the Lych Gate as it was in need of replacing and it had been suggested that it was the PC who had installed it. Members had no recollection of providing the bench and the Friends of St Michaels would be advised to that effect.

b. **Other Parishioners Questions**

A parishioner drew attention to various highways issues, which had all been referred to Kent Highway Services. In view of the delay in responding to the issues which had been reported via the spreadsheet it was agreed that a letter of complaint be sent insisting on a more rapid response.

The parishioner also drew attention to the Coult's Stream, which nearly caused flooding to some homes recently. It was agreed that a letter would be sent to both the EA and UMIDB asking why after issuing assurances that the Coult's Stream had been tamed did it nearly overflow following a recent short burst of heavy rain. It was noted that debris from upstream was washed downstream to Hale Street where it caused a blockage.

5. **Parish Council**

a. **To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 20 November 2006**

Following a discussion it was RESOLVED that the minutes of the meeting be approved as a correct record and signed by the Chairman subject to the inclusion of the following amendment.

'Minute 8a(iv) Removal of tress and provision of replacement fencing at land adjoining the Playing Field and 28 Russett Road.

The Chairman of the EPPFC advised members that a quotation for the sum of £2,000 had been received in respect of the removal of the trees. Members agreed that the work could be carried out.'

b. **Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda**

Minute 5b, Commemorative Tree

It was noted that the memorial had been installed and that the dedication service had been held on 09 December 06. The thanks of the PC were extended to Cllr. Shead for arranging for the memorial to be installed.

Minute 5b, Anti-Social Behaviour

It was reported that a response had been received from KPA, assuring the PC that the arrival of the new Police Constable would have a significant effect on anti social behaviour and criminality in East Peckham. An explanation on the role of the PCSO was also received; the PCSO would have limited power of arrest and would be able to issue fixed Penalty Notices for specified offences. Their main role would however be to actively engage with residents and intervene where incidents of antisocial behaviour became apparent. The Clerk confirmed that she had asked Kent Police for a definition of the specified offences for which the PCSO could issue Fixed Penalty Notices.

Minute 5b, Re-enameling of names

It was reported that a quotation had not yet been received for the names to be re-etched into the stone.

'Minute 8a(iv) Removal of tress and provision of replacement fencing at land adjoining the Playing Field and 28 Russett Road.

Members were advised that the cost of the removal of the trees would cost £2,000 and that an estimate of approximately £800 had been provided in respect of the replacement fencing. As there were no funds remaining in contingency the work had been put on hold pending the PCs further consideration. Following a discussion, it was proposed by Cllr. Crawford, seconded by Cllr. Poole and **RESOLVED** that the work would be funded from the PCs reserves. The planting of shrubs would however be delayed until the spring of 2007.

Minute 11d, 2006 Poppy Appeal

It was noted that the amount collected was £2,303.11. An increase of 20.53 on the amount collected in 2005, which was £2,282.58. The Clerk confirmed that the PCs appreciation had been expressed to Mr. & Mrs. Buckland.

c. Festive Lighting

Attention was drawn to the following:

- The lights had been successfully installed and switched on.
- Many compliments had been received.
- The Hop Farm had been thanked for their sponsorship of £750 and a request had been made for the money.
- TMBC had requested that the grant of £610 be applied for after Christmas.
- EDF would be supplying the energy for the festive lights and had provided an unmetered electricity certificate in this respect.

6. Planning Committee:

RESOLVED: That the minutes of the meetings held on 20 November 06 and 04 December 06 which had been copied to members be **RECEIVED, NOTED & APPROVED**

7. Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council:

a. Correspondence from retiring Director of Leisure

It was reported that the present Director of Leisure would be retiring at the end of December and that in the New Year Leisure Services would be part of the new Directorate of Planning, Transport and Leisure under the leadership of Steve Humphrey. Within that new directorate Robert Styles would be fulfilling the role of Head of Leisure Services.

b. Meeting with Town & Parish Council Clerks: To receive information

It was reported that the Clerk would be attending a meeting with the Chief Solicitor on February 9th 2007 the purpose of which would be to discuss the legal requirements for adopting a new code of conduct, which the Secretary of State has indicated all councils would need to do before the next council elections in May 07. The meeting would also discuss the arrangements for the Parish Council election.

c. Parish Partnership Panel:

(i) Meeting held on 09 November 06

It was reported that the minutes had been received for information. Members had been provided with extracts on Policing & the Rural White Paper.

(ii) Meeting to be held on 08 March 07

It was noted that the next meeting would be held on 08 March 07. Following a discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: That TMBC would be asked to place the following item on the agenda ' East Peckham Parish Council is concerned with the detritus which is left behind on the roads and footways following hedge cutting. Council some clarification be given on how this detritus is and should be dealt with. If left on the roads and footways it causes a hazard to motorists, cyclists and pedestrians as well as being washed into ditches and drains which then become blocked and present a flood risk'

d. 2007 Register of Electors

It was reported that the 2007 Register of Electors was available and that if individual Parish Councillors wished to receive a copy they would need to apply directly to the Electoral Registration Office and state the format they required (EXCEL or hard copy paper version)

8. East Peckham Playing Field Committee

a. Update on current issues

(i) KCC Small Community Grant

It was reported that no new information had been received.

(ii) Terms of Reference & Responsibilities for the new Management Committee

It was reported that work was in progress on the revised documentation.

(iii) Survey

Following the meeting held on 20.11.06 when Mr Clymer of Peter Clymer Partnership was asked to provide estimates, which would allow the PC to carry out essential repairs and keep the building in operation for two years and the cost of a new building, Mr Clymer attended the meeting and presented further information to members for consideration during which it was established that the category A items identified by the survey together with mechanical service items and electrical works should be carried out immediately at the cost of £12,770. It was also established that category B items totalling £32,250 should be carried out within six months and that a new building would cost in the regions of £834,000 - £1,734,000

Mr Clymer was thanked for his comprehensive report and offered to arrange for more accurate estimates to be provided in respect of the building work, which had been estimated to cost in the region of £32,250.

Following a discussion it was:

RESOLVED: That the 2007/08 precept requirement would include a provision of £12,770, which would allow the Category A, items to be carried out in April 07.

The EPPFC Chairman who was present at the meeting was asked to investigate the possible grants, which may be granted in respect of funding the Category B repairs and possibly a new build.

(iv) Rainbow Pre-School

It was reported that a meeting had been held on 27 November 06 where representatives from the PC and the EPPFC had met with the proprietors of the Pre-School to discuss difficulties. The meeting was successful and it would appear that a working basis for the future was agreed. It was noted that the Pre-School had not yet provided the EPPFC with a copy of their terms and conditions, which had been issued by the former committee.

b. To receive report from representative

The EPPFC Chairman informed members that he had written to all users of the Sports Hall informing them that remedial work would be carried out to the building and that all efforts would be made to ensure that the work was carried out when the hall was not in use. In order for routine maintenance and cleaning of the building to take place when the hall was not in use, users had been asked to adhere to their hire periods.

9. Policing:

a. Community & Police Working Group

It was reported that the next meeting would be held on 25.1.07.

b. Village Community Warden

Cllr. Street informed members that he had held a meeting with representatives from the Kent Community Safety Partnership following Ms Fiddocks resignation and had expressed the PCs views that Ms Fiddock was well thought of and did not receive adequate backing and support from either her superiors or the police. The temporary community warden was introduced to members. He informed members that he was not sure how long he would be working in the village but he had acknowledged the lack of contact between the former community warden and the police and the problems faced by the village, which he would try to improve.

c. Tonbridge & Malling Crime Prevention Panel:

(i) Report from Representative

It was reported that there had not been a recent meeting.

(ii) Anti-Social Behaviour

The Clerk reported that she had obtained an information leaflet, which offered advice on dealing with anti-social behaviour. The leaflet had been copied to members

d. Kent Police Authority: Policing Kent 2007/08: Completion of survey

It was reported that KPA was responsible for setting the annual budget and policing objectives of Kent Police and they had a legal duty to consult on the budget and policing plan for the next financial year. With this in mind as Parish Councils and Parish Councillors are at the heart of local communities the views of the PC had been invited to respond to a Policing Kent Survey for 2007/08 copies of which had been forwarded to Cllrs. Crawford, Gardner and Street. Following a discussion it was:

RESOLVED: That members were of the opinion that the document had not been thought out and served no useful purpose. These views would be conveyed to KPA. The PC would however welcome the opportunity to discuss policing issues on a more relevant basis to the village of East Peckham.

e. Correspondence from the Methodist Church regarding village policing and anti social behaviour

It was reported that a letter had been received from the Methodist Church regarding village policing and anti social behaviour. The letter had been copied to Cllrs. Gardenr, Crawford and Street. A response had been sent concurring with the views of the Methodist Church. As the PC was also extremely concerned at the perceived insufficient policing of the village the letter had also been copied to Kent Police. The Methodist Church had been advised of the PCs views and that the PC was considering the installation of CCTV during 2007/08.

f. Property Secretary, East Peckham Methodist Building

It was reported that a letter had been received alleging that the PC was responsible for leaving the building insecure following a planning meeting held on 04 December 06. A letter of apology had been sent and the Methodist Church had been informed that the usual steps were taken to ensure the security of the building and there was nothing to suggest to those last to exit the building that a fire door had been opened.

10. East Peckham Residents Association

It was reported that the Parish Council had been invited to take part in an Open Evening to be held on 23rd February 07. Following a discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: That the PC would be delighted to participate. Cllr Street would mount an exhibition of the 2006 Best Village Front Garden Competition.

11. Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS: Public Consultation 'A New Direction for surgical and orthopaedic care': To consider consultation documentation

It was reported that the Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS were reviewing surgical and orthopaedic care and a consultation document had been produced (copied to members) which outlined the proposed service changes. The PC had been invited to comment on the consultation document. Following a discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: That members could respond on an individual basis should they wish.

12. Finance

a. Bank Reconciliation as at 01.12.06: The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk and copied to members, was **APPROVED**

b. 2006/07 Sports Hall & Playing Field Grant

The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk and copied to members, was **APPROVED**. It was noted that the current position with regard to the 2006/07 grant was as follows:

2006/07 Grant	£12,784
(Included £2,000 virement from contingency approved at the September PC meeting)	
Plus refunds	£3,279
Total Grant	£16,063
Less Expenditure up to 15.12.06 (excl VAT)	£15,253
Less anticipated DD payments in respect of Gas supply to 31.3.07	£492
Net Grant available to 31.3.07	£318

c. S136 2006/07 Grants to Halls & Open Spaces: Reallocation of grant to Methodist Church from the kitchen refurbishment project to part fund work to improve the security of the building

It was reported that the Methodist Church whilst grateful for the grant of £500 towards the refurbishment of the kitchen did not have the funds available for the project to proceed. However they would like to improve the security of the building and had requested that the grant be reallocated and put towards that purpose. The Clerk reported that she had written to the Methodist Church asking for details on how specifically the fund would be spent and was waiting a reply. Following a discussion, it was:

RESOLVED: That there was no problem in principal with the reallocation of the grant provided the PC was given details on how the money would be specifically spent.

d. Financial Transactions

Receipts since 20.11.06

06.11.06 TMBC – S136 2 nd Half	£5,923.00
Dec 06 Allotments	£72.00
Total Receipts	£5,995.00

Payments made since 20.11.06

23.11.06 *D/D British Gas S/Hall Gas Supply (S19)	£114.00
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The following payments were approved (includes VAT where applicable)

Mrs. K Bell	Clerks Salary – December 06 & Expenses	£939.50 Chq 2531/2532
Inland Revenue	Salary Deductions Nov & Dec 06	£612.46 Chq 2533

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EDF Energy	Streetlight maintenance December 06	£324.18 Chq 2534
Peter Clymer	Sports Hall Survey	£4,210.06 Chq 2535
Ditton Electrical	Festive lighting	£1,956.38 Chq 2536
KAPC	Training course	£117.50 Chq 2537/2544
BT	Parish Office telecommunications	£103.40 Chq 2538
SLCC	Subscription	£120.00 Chq 2539
RBS	Sports Hall Electrical survey	£254.00 Chq 2540
Hever L/scapes	2006/07 Churchyard & village Maintenance	£470.85 Chq 2541
Sweepclean	Litter Clearing November 06	£88.13 Chq 2542
Brookside GC	Phillip Russell Memorial	£816.63 Chq 2543
Total		£10,013.09

13. Correspondence

It was reported that the following items had been received:

- a. ROSPA: Information received on the inspection of children's play areas (passed to EPPFC)
- b. SLCC: The Clerk (November 06): extract on 'White Paper promises extra powers for Parish Councils' – copied to members
- c. Landscape: Product Information
- d. Farming & Wildlife Advisory Group; Farming & Wildlife (Autumn/Winter 06)
- e. Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS: Fundraising News (November 06)
- f. The Playing Field: Kent County Playing Fields Association Newsletter (Autumn 06): (passed to EPPFC)
- g. Newsletter fro the Trust Funds managed by Charis Grants (November 06)
- h. NALC: Local Council Review – White Paper Special – copied to members
- i. Tunbridge Wells & District CAB: annual Report & Accounts 2005/06
- j. KAPC: Tonbridge & Malling Area Committee – Agenda for meeting held on 07.12.06 (passed to Cllrs. Crawford & Boyle)
- k. The Office of Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant of Kent: Invitation for Chairman and guest to attend the Annual civic Service on 20.3.07 (passed to Cllr. Crawford)
- l. J. Clubb Ltd: 2007 Calendar
- m. Action with Communities in Rural Kent: annual Report 2005/06
- n. Kompan (Playful Living): Brochure titled Community Play Areas - Create your unique playground (passed to EPPFC)

- o. CPRE:
 - (i) Advertising leaflet for Natural Collection
 - (ii) Fieldwork (December 06)

- p. TMBC:
 - (i) Christmas Refuse and Recycling Arrangements: Information received – copied to members
 - (ii) Weekend Household bulky Refuse Service: Nov 06 – Feb 07 – copied to members
 - (iii) Here & Now (Dec 06/Jan 07) (3 copies received)

- q. Tonbridge CAB: Christmas card & notification of change of address

14. Matters for future Discussion

Cllr Poole

Drew attention to the following issues:

- **Hedge Cutting**
Although the hedges had been cut recently at Tonbridge Road and Church Lane, the cuttings had not been cleared away. The Clerk would contact TMBC & KHS to ascertain who was responsible for clearing cuttings from highways and footways.

- **Drainage ditches**
Whilst the drainage ditches had been cleared, the detritus was left on the roadside. The Clerk would contact UMIDB and ascertain who was responsible for the removal of this detritus.

- **Overgrown hedge** in Church Lane (school end) the matter would be reported to KHS.

- **Recent letter on flood issues**
Cllr Poole expressed his annoyance that a response to his letter on a number of flooding issues was allegedly given verbally at a recent public meeting. It was agreed that the Chairman of the Steering Group would be asked to send a written response together with a record of what was said verbally at the public meeting.

15. Date of Next Meeting: 22 January 2007

There being no additional business the meeting concluded at 22.00 hours.
