

**MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE METHODIST OLD CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 20<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 2006 AT 19.30 HOURS**

**PRESENT:** Cllrs: Mrs Cresswell (Chairman) Mr Boyle (Vice-Chairman) Messrs Bearman (until 21.30hrs), Cresswell, Mrs. Curry, Gardner, Poole, Street (until 22.00hrs) & Whiteside

**ALSO PRESENT:** Mrs. E Jones (Temporary Clerk) County Cllr. Richard Long

**APOLOGIES:** Apologies were NOTED from Cllrs Crawford & Shead

**1. Opening of Meeting**

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, who welcomed everyone and advised that the Clerk had sent thanks to everyone for their cards and good wishes upon the birth of her baby daughter and extended an invitation to all members to call and see her if they wish.

**2. Declarations of Interests** There were no declarations of interest

**3. Report from County Councillor**

The Clerk advised that County Cllr Long will attend between 20.30 and 21.00hrs. It was agreed that Standing Orders be suspended when Cllr Long arrives to permit him to speak.

**4. Parishioners Question time**

(a) **The Community Warden** reported on the following:

- (i) **Litter:** Members were advised that to obtain a prosecution for throwing litter from cars it is necessary to provide the registration number of the vehicle plus a description of the occupant.
- (ii) **Vandalism:** NOTED that vandalism occurred at Curran Hall last week.
- (iii) **Parking:** Difficulties of parking in Hale Street
- (iv) **Sports Hall:** Problems with the gate and youths on Gym Night. It was felt that better lighting is needed outside the Sports Hall.
- (v) **Playground:** Difficulties encountered with older children preventing younger ones from using The swings and slides.

(b) **Melissa Hards from the Hop Farm** gave members the following information:-

- (i) **Proposed Holiday Village:** Now that Planning approval has been given, 2006 will be a year for making plans for the future and it is not anticipated that these will be implemented until 2007.
- (ii) **Concerts:** No concerts are planned for this year. There will be no Party in the Park during 2006

Council members raised the following points:-

- 1. **War & Peace:** It was felt that the sponsors of this event had not observed the requirement not to overspill onto the footpaths and should take more care to do so in future.

2. **Participation by Village residents:** It was noted that events are advertised as being in Paddock Wood and people in the village would welcome more effective participation.
3. **Membership Cards:** Clarification was requested regarding benefits to residents of East Peckham
4. **Scrapped Cars:** Concern was expressed that the growing pile of cars which have been crushed during events at the venue can be seen from the road and is somewhat of an eyesore.

Melissa advised that she has a Management Meeting on Thursday next, 23<sup>rd</sup> February, at which she will raise all these points. If any member wishes to contact her the telephone number is 01622.870818. Members thanked Melissa for attending and wished the Hop Farm a successful season.

## 5. Parish Council

### a. Minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006 were **confirmed and signed** as a correct record of the proceedings

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

#### [i] **The Commemoration of Philip Russell** (Page 3065, Item 5c)

Cllr Mrs Cresswell advised that she has met Mr & Mrs Russell and they have suggested a tree be planted in the churchyard. The Reverend Carr is anxious to have a yew tree in the churchyard. It was suggested one be planted, and a plaque provided in commemoration of Philip, subject to the approval of all parties. Cllr Cresswell will keep members advised of developments.

### c. Parish Council Website: Update

Cllr. Poole distributed the postcards which will be circulated with the Annual Report. He advised that work continues and the maps are in the final stages of production. It was noted that a good deal of information from the Parish magazine has been included and any further contributions will be welcome.

### d. Annual Parish Meeting (03.04.06)

#### [i] **Content of Annual Report**

The Clerk advised that she has now received all but one of the outstanding reports and is anxious that she should be in a position to deliver the copy to the printers by next week.

#### [ii] **Guest Speakers**

It was confirmed that the following had accepted the PCs invitation to date:

- Mr. D Williams (TMBC Crime & Reduction Partnership) & Ms Shirley Fiddock (Community Warden) - Policing & Community update
- TMBC representatives – A presentation on what TMBC does for young people with young people themselves presenting a section on the Youth Forum.
- Sue Finnigan, of the Small Change Project

#### [iii] **Photographs**

Cllr Street produced a draft of the proposed front cover for members' approval. PROPOSED by Cllr. Gardner, SECONDED by Cllr Mrs Curry, that the cover, which is

comprised of photographs of the certificates awarded in the Village of the Year Competition, be reproduced in colour. CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

[iv] **Curran Hall**

The Clerk was asked to contact the leader of the Girls' Brigade to advise her that the Annual Parish Meeting will take place in the Curran Hall on Monday , 3<sup>rd</sup> April at 19.30hrs

e. **Village Sign: Progress Report**

It was noted that Signs of the Times have been advised of the dimensions and condition of the post. The company were contacted on 14<sup>th</sup> February 2006 and reported that the work is progressing nicely and should be complete within one or two weeks.

f. **Kent Village of the Year Competition**

Cllr Peter Street advised that he has received an application pack and will liaise with Karen Bell when completing the form.

Standing Orders were suspended at this point in the meeting to commit County Cllr. Long to speak.

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Cllr Long reported on the following items:-

(a) **Council Tax Increase**

It was noted that between two thirds and three quarters of KCC's £2 billion budget comes from central Government and the increase for the coming year will be 0.3% only. To stop the gap left by this, it has been necessary to impose a Council Tax increase of 4.75% which, although it is more than KCC would have liked, is less than most other southern counties and no redundancies will be necessary.

(b) **Road Repairs:**

It is inevitable that some cuts will have to be made from the Highways budget , but necessary works should continue to be monitored and every effort should be made to obtain satisfactory responses to communications to the Highways Department. ***Cllr Mrs Cresswell suggested that, whilst members are delivering the Annual Report, they should look at footpaths, footways and roads and report back any problems.***

(c) **Local Boards**

It was noted that there is approximately £75,000 from Council Tax on second homes, which is to be shared by the County Council and Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council. This money will be spent on special projects and if Cllr Long is given details and costings he can put them forward. It was noted that the Local Board's next meeting will take place at Ightham on 9<sup>th</sup> March 2006.

***It was felt that the provision of a Youth Shelter and Swing , which is ready to go ahead at a cost of approximately £10,500, might be an appropriate project for these funds. It was agreed that Cllr Stephen Cresswell will contact Loic Flory, with a copy to Mr Long.***

There were no further questions from members; the Chairman thanked Cllr Long for attending and invited him to attend the Annual Parish Meeting on Monday, 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2006.

## 6. Planning Committee

### Minutes of meetings held on 23<sup>rd</sup> January & 6th February 2006

The minutes of the meetings, which were copied to members, were approved

## 7. TMBC

- a. **Heritage Open Days** No suitable properties were nominated
- b. **Minutes of Joint Transportation Board meeting, 5<sup>th</sup> December 2005** NOTED
- c. **Flytipping and Householders' "Duty of Care"** RESOLVED laminated posters be displayed at the Sports Hall and the School and details be included in the Annual Report, which will reach every household.
- d. **T & M Stock Condition Survey** Details of forthcoming survey NOTED
- e. **2006 Summer Playscheme** Reply to Council's letter READ and NOTED. RESOLVED the Borough Council be asked in which section of the Care Standard does OFSTED require children to have been registered prior to arriving at the Centre.
- f. **Weekend Household Bulky Refuse Service. February – May 2006** Details NOTED  
RESOLVED the Borough Council be contacted to express concern that the driver of the bulky refuse vehicle is reversing to leave the site instead of driving out via Russett Road, which is causing a hazard.
- g. **Mayor's Charity Dance: 24<sup>th</sup> March 2006** Details of the dance, which will be held at Ditton Community Centre, and will feature Todd Miller and the Joe Loss Orchestra, were NOTED.

## 8. KCC

- a. **Council Tax Increase** Dealt with by County Cllr Long
- b. **Road Repairs** Dealt with by County Cllr Long
- c. **Recycle for Kent – Waste Exhibition Unit** Details NOTED
- d. **Responses to Parish Councils** Dealt with by County Cllr Long

## 9.. Groups & Organisations

### a. **Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management:**

Cllr Bearman reported that there was a large turn out for the Management Committee's meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006. Proposals for the Childrens' Play Area and Youth Shelter were discussed, together with speed ramps in Pippin Road. It had been agreed that proposals for the Skate Park had been shelved. Cllr Bearman advised that he has since received an e-mail from Mr John Crowley, who was of the opinion that the Skate Park proposals were abandoned rather than shelved. The Chairman agreed that the wording of the Minutes be changed, but the current Management committee can give no guarantee that a future committee will not resurrect the idea. Cllr Cresswell read the last letter regarding the Skate Park received from a resident, following a report in a local paper. She had felt the decision to be short-sighted and that the project should have gone ahead.

The suggestion that the Sports Hall & Playing Field Management Committee should become a

sub-committee of the Parish Council was raised and Cllr Mrs Cresswell pointed out that this cannot happen unless members of the existing Management Committee decide that they are unable to carry out the terms of the Lease, in which case all parties must go through the due process to rescind the Lease. Mr Bearman produced a copy of the draft budget for circulation to all members of the Council. It was RESOLVED that a copy of the Lease should be circulated at the same time. In response to a member's question, it was NOTED that there is no separate constitution for this committee.

RESOLVED that KCC Highways be asked to consider the installation of speed ramps in Russett Road and Pippin Road.

A picture of the proposals for the childrens' playground was shown to members and it was NOTED that any decision to be made by the Borough Council's Finance Department regarding using the Skate Park Grant money for this project will not be made until 17<sup>th</sup> May 2006. Cllr Mrs Cresswell has spoken to Robert Styles and will delay the installation of the equipment pending the outcome.

It was NOTED that the Groundsman has resigned and there is no-one to mark the pitches. Cllr Cresswell has undertaken this task on the last two weekends and has obtained a quotation from Technical Services to carry out the marking when he is not available. The price for marking out four pitches will be £100. It was suggested that the School Caretaker be approached and members were asked to make enquiries.

**b. Community & Police Working Group**

Cllr Street, who had attended a Crime Prevention Panel meeting this evening, reported that there is a major change ahead for Tonbridge policing, with a huge area and staff increase.

**c. KAPC: Minutes of Meeting held 8<sup>th</sup> December 2005** NOTED

**d. KAPC: Parish News, issue 341, 30<sup>th</sup> January 2006 + enclosures** RESOLVED a copy of Parish News be distributed to all members

**e. Village Design Statement: progress report**

Cllr Whiteside reported that very few people had attended the recent meeting, but a further meeting will be arranged shortly.

**f. Tonbridge & Malling Crime Prevention Panel: Minutes & Agenda** Dealt with by Cllr Street under Item 9b.

**10. Finance**

**a. Bank Reconciliation as at 30.01.06**

The information, which had been prepared by the Clerk & copied to members, was noted.

**b. Holy Trinity Church, East Peckham**

A letter was considered from the Reverend Anthony Carr requesting a grant towards the cost of providing a gradient to make the main entrance to the Church accessible to wheel-chair users. Costings have been obtained ranging between £6,704 and £11,190. After discussion it was

RESOLVED that the Reverend Carr be advised that all the Council's allocation for such grants has been used for the current financial year, and the next applications will be discussed in the summer of 2006. It was suggested that the PCC should apply to the Borough Council, who have funds specifically for creating a "wheelchair friendly" environment. In the event of any future request the PCC should be asked to state how much they have already managed to raise.

**c. East Peckham Methodist Church**

A letter was considered from Mr Peter Morgan, Chairman of the Property Committee for East Peckham Methodist Church. The Church is requesting a grant from the Parish Council towards The refurbishment of the kitchen in the Curran Hall, the cost of which will be £3,442.00. It was RESOLVED that Mr Morgan be advised that the Council has spent its allocation for grants for the current financial year and will not be considering further applications for assistance until the summer of 2006. If the Church wishes to submit an application when the time comes, it should set out how much money has already been raised towards the scheme.

**d. Streetlighting Repairs** RESOLVED that the following streetlights be repaired, but that EDF Energy be asked to explain the difference in the price of the Quotations.

Outside 24 Chidley: £62.91 + VAT 1 Snoll Hatch Road: £77.87 + VAT

**e. Financial Transactions**

**Receipts since 23.01.06**

|          |                                             |          |
|----------|---------------------------------------------|----------|
| 25/01/06 | VAT Refund 1/10/05 – 31/12/05               | 1,128.27 |
| 17/02/06 | TMBC: 50% of Grant for Playground Equipment | 2,778.50 |

**Payments made since 23.01.06**

|          |                                               |       |
|----------|-----------------------------------------------|-------|
| 04/01/06 | DD Emergency Planning                         | 80.00 |
| 23/01/06 | *DD British Gas. Sports Hall Gas Supply (S19) | 83.00 |

**Payments for Approval**

|                     |                                          |         |
|---------------------|------------------------------------------|---------|
| Mrs K Bell:         | Maternity Pay February '06               | 803.60  |
| Mrs E Jones:        | Expenses Feb.06 (S112)                   | 21.34   |
| Astrosyn:           | # Floorcoverings to Scout HQ 2578.98     |         |
|                     | (S19) VAT <u>451.32</u>                  | 3030.30 |
| D J & V Dowdeswell: | # Labour charges + minor materials (S19) | 1148.43 |
| Travis Perkins:     | #Materials for work to Scout HQ 989.19   |         |
|                     | (S19) VAT <u>173.09</u>                  | 1162.28 |
| Gary Kemmett:       | *Work to showers & toilets, 740.00       |         |
|                     | Sports Hall VAT <u>129.50</u>            | 869.50  |

|                          |                                                    |                  |                |
|--------------------------|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|----------------|
| EDF Energy:              | S/L Maintenance Feb.'06                            | 275.90           |                |
|                          |                                                    | VAT <u>48.28</u> | 324.18         |
| SSG Emprise:             | *Security Patrols: January 2006                    | 182.00           |                |
|                          |                                                    | VAT <u>31.85</u> | 213.85         |
| Local Councils Update:   | Annual subscription to Clerks<br>& Councils Direct |                  | 100.00         |
| Sweepclean (Kent) Ltd:   | Litter PK/S – serviced Jan.'06                     | 75.00            |                |
|                          |                                                    | VAT <u>13.13</u> | 88.13          |
| KCC Commercial Services: | Cleaning Supplies for Sports Hall                  | 43.14            |                |
|                          |                                                    | VAT <u>7.55</u>  | 50.69          |
| KCC Commercial Services: | Superwhite powder for Sports Field                 | 75.00            |                |
|                          |                                                    | VAT <u>13.13</u> | 88.13          |
| Tonbridge & Malling BC:  | 250 Letterheads (Temporary Clerk)                  | 22.25            |                |
|                          |                                                    | VAT <u>3.89</u>  | <u>26.14</u>   |
| <b>Total approved</b>    |                                                    |                  | <b>7926.57</b> |

**\*Payments to be charged to the Sports Hall and Playing Field Management Grant  
#Payments to be charged to the Grant to the Scouts, approved on 23<sup>rd</sup> January 2006**

- f. TMBC Financial Services: NOTED a sum of £2778.50 has been received to date, being 50% of the grant towards the play equipment which has recently been installed. An inspection certificate is in hand, upon receipt of which the balance of the grant will be released.

**11. Correspondence**

It was reported that the following items had been received:

- a. Kent Chief Constable: Appointment of Chief Superintendent Area Commanders and Deputies
- b. Plantscape: Perfect Plants in Public places
- c. Rekk: 6 steps to a successful youth shelter
- d. Kent RCC: Kent Community Halls Conference, 25<sup>th</sup> March 2006
- e. Environment Agency: Changes to Flood Warning Service
- f. Audit Commission: East Peckham Playing Fields Committee

- g. Government Computing: February 2006
- h. Salvation Army: Annual Quiz Night. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2006
- i. Mid Kent Water: Hosepipe Ban Poster Campaign
- j. ROSPA: Play Inspections – recent leaflet
- k. Age Concern: Letter of thanks
- l. Playwork South East: Letter of thanks
- m. SMP Playgrounds: Product details
- n. Kompan: Product details

**12. Matters for Future Discussion**

- a. **Christmas Lights** Cllr Gardner felt that information should be sought as early as possible and it was agreed that contact be made with the Clerk of Hadlow Parish Council to seek guidance.

**13. Date & time of Next Meeting:** 20th March 2006

There being no additional business, the meeting closed at 22.15 hours