

MINUTES OF A MEETING OF THE PARISH COUNCIL HELD IN THE METHODIST OLD CHURCH HALL ON MONDAY 23RD JANUARY 2006 AT 19.30 HOURS

PRESENT: Cllrs: Mrs Cresswell (Chairman) Mr Boyle (Vice-Chairman) Messrs Bearman, Crawford, Cresswell, Mrs. Curry, Gardner, Poole, Shead, Street & Whiteside

ALSO PRESENT: Mrs. E Jones, County Cllr. Richard Longs (at 8.20pm)

APOLOGIES: No apologies had been received

1. Opening of Meeting

The meeting was opened by the Chairman, who wished everyone good evening and a Happy New Year.

2. Declarations of Interests There were no declarations of interest

3. Report from County Councillor

It was noted that County Councillor Long cannot attend until 8.20pm, at which time Standing Orders will be suspended to permit him to speak.

4. Parishioners Question time

Before this began the Chairman advised those present that no decision would be made regarding the Skateboard Park at this meeting; this will be made at a meeting of the Sports Hall and Playing Fields Management Committee which will take place on Monday next, 30th January 2006. Although this meeting will not be open to the public, each organization using the facilities has the opportunity to send a representative and this includes the Parish Council. The Chairman gave assurance that no Parish Council money is involved in this project and stressed that any decision on its future can only be made by the Management Committee. It was also stated that the Parish Council owns the Playing fields and the Management Committee has a 99 year lease, which is not a public document.

A petition, which had been signed by many of the residents present, was handed to the Council and it was noted that a considerable number of letters have been received, asking that the Management Committee should think again about the possible effect on the village. Most of those present had read detrimental reports in the press regarding incidents in other areas where a skateboard park is already in existence.

Mr Philip Easom, the Group Scout Leader extended thanks to the Parish Council for attempting to deal with problems which already exist in the village by employing a security company for the Sports Hall and expressed his fears that the provision of a skateboard Park could exacerbate the situation.

In response to Mr Jenner's suggestion that something on a smaller scale might be considered, it was explained that the cost of a tarmac or concrete area required for this might prove prohibitive and would not provide what had originally been requested by the skateboarders.

One resident spoke on behalf of the skateboarders who live in the village; he advised that they have committed the past two years to campaigning for this facility, having stopped using the village streets for skateboarding and they have never caused any trouble. It was noted that it is not always convenient for parents to transport them by car to another area which does have a skateboard park.

In bringing the discussion on this item to a conclusion, the Chairman gave those present her assurance that the Parish Council has taken note of residents' views, which will be passed on to the Management Committee by Cllr. Bearman, who is the Parish Council's representative, and their petition will be presented to the Management Committee. Mr Channing's partner was given permission to attend next Monday's meeting on his behalf.

In response to a question regarding play equipment, the Chairman advised new equipment is to be installed in the play area this week and that more will follow. Seats and benches are also proposed, but those for the play area will not be sited until the installation of play equipment has been completed. It was noted that there has been consultation with young people in the village to establish what type of youth shelter should be provided.

The Chairman thanked everyone for attending the meeting and advised that the decision of the Management Committee regarding the Skate Park project will be available on Tuesday 31st January 2006.

5. Parish Council

a. Minutes of the meeting held on 14th December 2005

Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held on 14th December 2005 were **confirmed and signed** as a correct record of the proceedings

b. Matters Arising not covered elsewhere on the agenda

There were no matters raised by members

c. The Commemoration of Philip Russell: Letter from Mrs Russell

RESOLVED that Mrs Russell be advised that the Parish Council will be delighted to plant a commemorative tree for Philip Russell, who lived in East Peckham and was killed in the London bombing on 7th July 2005. It was agreed that the Chairman and Clerk should consult with Philip's family to discuss a suitable tree and an appropriate location.

d. Parish Council Website: Update

Cllr. Poole reported that the postcards should arrive on Friday next, 27th January 2006 and it was suggested that these should be circulated with the Annual Report.. A great deal of information has been collected for inclusion on the website and this is currently being collated. Members were asked to provide any details of Organisations as soon as possible; it was noted that there is a good deal of information on the back of the Parish magazine.

At this point in the meeting, Standing Orders were suspended to permit County Cllr Long to speak

Report from County Councillor

County Cllr. Richard Long reported that an e-mail has been sent to Norman Bateman in his campaign to obtain response from the Highways Department when they receive communications from Parish Councils. Cllr Long advised that he has Mr Bateman's assurance that he is endeavouring to improve communication between Councils and the Highways Department.

Cllr Mrs Cresswell asked Cllr Long to enquire why, when so many villages have a maximum speed of 40 miles per hour, East Peckham still has a 60mph limit in Church Lane, which is quite near the School gates, and in Tonbridge Road. Cllr Long felt that continued attempts should be made to have the speed limit reduced to 40mph throughout the village.

It was agreed that contact be made with Lyn Smith, also mentioning the parking situation in Church Lane and Pound Road, where drives are being obstructed and bottlenecks caused.

The Chairman thanked Cllr Long for attending the meeting.

e. Annual Parish Meeting (03.04.06)

[i] Content of Annual Report

Members who have agreed to provide reports for inclusion in the Annual Report were asked to submit them to the Clerk as quickly as possible.

[ii] Guest Speakers

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

- 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

It was confirmed that the certificates for the front cover of the Annual Report have been photographed.

f. Village Sign: Progress Report

It was noted that Signs of the Times are awaited details regarding the dimensions and condition of the existing post.

Cllr Whiteside agreed to investigate the substance of the post and provide dimensions for submission to the company.

g. **Kent Free Trees Scheme**

Details of the Kent Free Trees Scheme were noted and it was agreed that the Clerk and Chairman should liaise with a view to obtaining some trees through the scheme.

h. **Audit Commission:** Request for permission to send copy of correspondence from the Parish Clerk to Mr Poole

It was agreed that the Audit Commission be given permission to let Mr Poole have sight of the Clerk's letter.

i. **East Peckham Scout Group:**

A letter from Mr Easton, outlining the problem which has been recently discovered with the floor of the Scout Headquarters, was read to members. It was noted that dry rot has been discovered and the entire floor must be replaced as quickly as possible. The total cost for the floor, covering and replacement of cupboards which were joined to the existing floor will be in excess of £7,000. The Scout Association are unable to assist with the cost and the deadline for a Grant from the Borough Council has passed., so East Peckham Scouts have been obliged to seek assistance from the Parish Council. **Proposed** by Mr Cresswell, **seconded** by Mr Boyle, that a contribution of a minimum of £5,000 be made to East Peckham Scouts. **Carried unanimously.** The Clerk was asked to establish the balance of the current year's contingency fund.

6. **Finance Committee**

a. Minutes of the meeting held on 19th December 2005

Minutes of the meeting of the Finance Committee held on 19th December 2005 were **confirmed and signed** as a correct record of the meeting.

b. Parish Council Precept for 2006/2007 as £46,869

The Parish Council Precept for the Financial Year 2006/2007 was **confirmed as £46,869**

7. **Planning Committee**

Minutes of meetings held on 19th December 2005 & 9th January 2006

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

8. **TMBC**

a. **Grants to Parish Councils**

Noted that a Grant was applied for towards the cost of a youth shelter and swing, the total cost of which will be £14,414. **A Grant of £6,697 has been recommended.**

RESOLVED that the acceptance form be signed and returned to the Borough Council.

b. Parish Partnership Panel meeting

It was noted that the next meeting of the Parish Partnership meeting will be held on **9th March 2006**. **RESOLVED** that the item **Parking outside the School** be placed on the Agenda

c. Summer Playscheme

The Borough Council's letter outlining the arrangements for funding the fourth week of the Summer Playscheme in 2006 was read and noted.

PROPOSED by Cllr Street, **SECONDED** by Cllr Poole, that this Council accepts the current terms as set out in the letter for 2006. **CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**. Concern was expressed, however, regarding reports that children were turned away from the Playscheme during 2005, when it was apparent that places were available and this issue, although raised recently with the Chief Executive, has yet to be clarified; **RESOLVED** that further enquiries be made.

d. Meeting of Standards Committee & members of Town & Parish Councils Standards Sub-Committee 25th January 2006 Cllr Whiteside will attend.**9. KCC****a. Council Tax & Policing Plan**

A communication from Kent Police Authority asking the following questions was noted:-

[i] Should Kent Police Authority

- Fund the pressures set out as best it can and set the council tax at or near the government's 5% guideline
- OR
- Set a lower council tax and accept that not all pressures can be funded

RESOLVED the second option on the form be selected

[ii] Which of the pressures are most important to fund?

- Becoming a strategic force
- Expanding Neighbourhood Policy
- Increasing use of DNA evidence
- Answer more phone calls, faster

RESOLVED priority be recommended as follows:-

1. Expanding Neighbourhood Policy
2. Answer more phone calls faster

b. Definitive Maps & Statements – Legal Event Orders **Passed to Mr Street**

10. Groups & Organisations

a. Committee of Sports Hall & Playing Field Management:

PROPOSED by Cllr Gardner, **SECONDED** by Cllr Shead, that Council members be given a copy of the Lease between the Parish Council and the Sports Hall and Playing Field Management Committee, in order that they may have a better understanding of the responsibility and that the Committee's Financial Report should show details of any funding by the Parish Council. **CARRIED**

It was suggested that the Management Committee should become a sub-Committee of the Parish Council, provided that representatives of user groups could still be involved. Concerns were expressed that some of the volunteer help would drop away and additional work would therefore fall on the Clerk, resulting in higher administrative costs.

RESOLVED that Cllr Bearman be asked to raise the suggestion with the Management Committee at its next meeting.

b. Community & Police Working Group

Cllr Crawford reported that the last meeting was poorly attended. DC Booth had been unable to attend but had sent information that there had been 50 recorded crimes in the village between 1st November 2005 and 19th January 2006. There has apparently been an increase in crime following the opening of Somerfield, but there are no figures with which to make any comparison. The Annual Report has been written and a telephone list which be printed on the back of this.

c. Local Board: Report of Meeting held on 06 December 05

Cllr. Mrs Cresswell reported that the £40,000 for Tonbridge & Malling has all been spent for this year so the Playing Fields Management Committee's bid for Play equipment will be held over until the next financial year.

d. Village Design Statement: Progress Report

At Cllr Whiteside's request, a meeting date was agreed as **Thursday 16th February 2006**

e. Emergency Planning Society

RESOLVED that the membership card received be held in the Emergency file in the Parish Council Office and that the Borough Council be asked to amend their Flood Warning details by substituting the words 'the Clerk' rather than the Clerk's name.

f. Rural Community Council for Kent & Medway: Kent Village of the Year Competition

RESOLVED that East Peckham should participate in the Competition again this year. Cllr Street agreed to co-ordinate this with the Clerk.

12. Finance**a. Bank Reconciliation as at 31.12.05**

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

b. Community Warden Coffee morning

RESOLVED that the Parish Council should meet the cost of refreshments and minor expenses for the Community Warden's coffee morning. The funding to come from the 2005/2006 Community and Police Working /group budget.

c. Clerks and Councils Direct

RESOLVED this Council should renew its subscription to Clerks and Councils Direct for the current year.

d. Clerk's Christmas Bonus

RESOLVED that the recommendation made by the Parish Council's Finance Committee at its meeting on 19th December 2005 to award the Clerk a Christmas bonus be **RATIFIED**

e. Financial Transactions**Receipts since 19.12.05**

09/01/06	BT:Wayleave	8.82
17/01/06	Inland Revenue – Maternity Pay refund	2071.90

Payments made since 19.12.05

22/12/05	*D/D British Gas. Sports Hall Gas Supply (S19)	83.00
03/01/06	D/D Emergency Planning Society Annual membership	80.00

The following payments were approved

Mrs K Bell:	Maternity Pay January '06	711.18
Mrs E Jones:	Expenses Dec.05/Jan.06 (S112)	26.17
Ditton Electrical Contracts Ltd:	Car Parking lights	898.09
	VAT	<u>157.17</u>
		1055.26
EDF Energy:	Streetlighting Energy Oct-Dec.'05	499.98
	CCL	<u>25.53</u>
		525.51
	VAT	<u>91.97</u>
		617.48
EDF Energy:	S/L Maintenance Jan.'06 (S10)	275.90

		VAT <u>48.28</u>	324.18
E. Peckham Methodist Church:	Office Hire Jan-Mar.'06	289.47	
	Hall Hire Oct-Dec.'05	<u>75.54</u>	365.01
Kent Grassland Services:	5 Pitches – December '05	125.00	
		VAT <u>21.88</u>	146.88
Hills Office Services:	HP Printer ink cartridges	124.31	
		VAT <u>21.74</u>	146.05
Sweepclean (Kent) Ltd:	Litter PK/S – serviced Dec.05	75.00	
	(S137)	VAT <u>13.13</u>	88.13
Harris Landscapes:	Repairs to bench –Curran Hall		65.00
KCC Commercial Services:	Stationery Supplies	34.25	
		VAT <u>5.99</u>	40.24
SSG Emprise:	*Sports hall Security (S19)	182.00	
		VAT <u>31.85</u>	<u>213.85</u>
Total approved			3799.43

***Payments to be charged to the Sports Hall and Playing Field Management Grant**

12. Correspondence

It was reported that the following items had been received:

- a. Kenward Trust: New Life Magazine (issue 4 2005) & details of supporters' insurance scheme
- b.. English Rural Housing Association: The Bulletin (Winter 2005/06)
- c. KCC: Introducing KCC's new website & changes to the Local Board Website
- d. The Emergency Planning Society: Blueprint (Winter 2005/06) – passed to Cllr. Poole
- e. 2005 Christmas Cards: received from Mid Kent Water & Russett Homes
- f. SW Kent NHS: The following consultation documents have been received:
 - Consultation on new strategic Health Authority and Primary Care Trust Arrangements in Kent & Medway (summary leaflet also received)
 - Configuration of NHS
- g. TMBC: Minutes of Council, Cabinet & Committee Meetings 2005 Vol. 5 (Sept 27 – Nov 23)
- h. The Playing Field: Kent County Playing Fields Association Newsletter –(passed to Cllr Cresswell)
- i. Action with Communities in Rural Kent: Oast to Coast (Winter 05)

- j. NALC: Local Council Review (January 06)
- k. Change Up: Kent Infrastructure Development Plan (Draft) – Improving Support for Kent's Voluntary Sector (Received for information with option to comment)
- l. Consumer Direct South East (in partnership with Trading Standards) – Promotional Literature (Attached)
- m. Maidstone & Tunbridge Wells NHS Trust: “Your Health Services”
- n. Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Conduct in English Local Government
- o. Rural Community Council for Kent & Medway: “Kent Village of the Year 2006”
- p. KAPC: Tonbridge & Malling Area Committee Minutes 8th December 2005
- q. Clerks & Council Direct: January 2006 plus enclosures
- r. East Peckham PCC: Letter of Thanks for Donation
- s. Hospice in the Weald: Letter of thanks for Donation
- t. Tunbridge Wells & District Citizens Advice Bureau: Letter of thanks for donation
- u. Glasdon UK: Local Councils News-sheet – Product details
- v. Wicksteed: Their World – Product details
- w. Timberline: Product Details

13. **Matters for future Discussion**

- a. **Bash the Trash** - Suggested earlier date: evening of 27th June 2006
- b. **Car Sales** Agreed a letter be written to Tonbridge & Malling concerning car sales in Old Road/Hale Street and at Red Fort/ Rose & Crown
- c. **Footpaths** Report the condition of Footpath F537 from the end of the tarmac to the playing field

Monitor the section of towpath (FP 548) adjacent to a piece of land being used for Motocross to ensure riders are not driving close to the towpath.
- d. **The Harp** Agreed the attention of the Planning Department be drawn to the illuminations on the fence at The Harp public house as it is felt that these may be overhanging the footway.

14. **Date & time of Next Meeting:** 20th February 2006

There being no additional business, the meeting closed at 10.00pm (22.00hours)

