

SHIPBOURNE PARISH
COUNCIL

SARAH HUSEYIN
Clerk to the Council

Gable Cottage, Ismays Road
IGHTHAM, TN15 9BE

Telephone: 01732 886402
email: shipbourneparishcouncil@gmail.com

Minutes of the Meeting of the Parish Council held at Shipbourne Village Hall at 7.00 pm on Monday 14 November 2022

Present: Cllr Tyler (Chair), Cllr Dagger, Cllr Leach, Cllr Oram, Cllr Sheldrick, The Parish Clerk, County Cllr Rayner, Borough Cllrs Montague, Palmer & Taylor

1. **Apologies for absence** - Cllr Bate and Cllr Redman
2. **Dispensations and Declarations of Interest** - None
3. **The minutes of the Parish Council meeting on 10 October 2022** were approved with a couple of typos. The Clerk will make the amendments and pass to Cllr Tyler to sign.
4. **Reports: County Councillor & Borough Councillor** - Cllr Taylor reported that the consultation for the Reg 18 had ended and there had been around 3,000 responses. Cllr Taylor reported that there would be an informal meeting of local Parish Chairs on Sunday 20 November to see whether there were any common issues that Parishes could work together on. Cllr Tyler asked whether we would hear about the outcome of the Reg 18 consultation? Cllr Palmer said that we wouldn't find out until Reg 19 next year. In addition, with the upcoming elections next May, all decisions at Borough level would cease mid-March 2023.
Cllr Rayner reported that there would be spending cuts at County level and KCC were in significant financial difficulty. Kent County Council and Hampshire County Council have written to the Prime Minister and Chancellor to say that they would be facing a s 114 notice (administration) unless they had some financial assistance. One of the reasons for the financial difficulties is the exponential rise in the cost of adult and children services. At the meeting on Sunday, Chairs will be briefed on where the cuts are likely to be so that Parishes can bear this in mind when setting their precepts in January. If Parishes are aware of likely cuts to services, they may be able to join forces and step into help with costs.
Going forward, Cllr Rayner suggested that Unitary Authorities may be a way forward in effectively cutting costs as there is currently some duplication in services at Borough and County level ie fly tipping.
Regarding bus services, the planned budget reduction for supported services of £2.2 million has now been reduced and the reduction in services won't take place until February 2023. There will be no further cuts to the bus budget as long as the Government delivers funding via BCIP.
Cllrs Rayner, Taylor, Palmer and Montague left the meeting at 7.30pm.
5. **Public Open Session** - No members of the public were present.
6. **Highways & Footpaths** Cllr Oram reported that a parishioner had fallen on the footpath on Stumble Hill. The uneven surface had been reported to Kent Highways in June 2022 and The Clerk rereported it following the accident. Cllr Oram reported that she has seen a contractor inspecting the path although wasn't sure of the outcome. **Highways Improvement Plan (HIP)** – No update.
7. **Matters arising**
 - 7.1. **Grass Cutting at Wightwicks and Common Land at Dunks Green 2022** - Nothing to report.
 - 7.2. **Broken sign post at Dunks Green** – Nothing to report.
 - 7.3. **Village Hall & Shipbourne Farmers Market** – Update on Trustees for Village Hall.
Cllr Leach reported that it looked likely that the Trust would have to be dissolved and we should advertise in the Parish magazine to see what Parishioners think. There are a few volunteers willing to help with the running of the village hall but no volunteers to be Trustees. If the Trust is dissolved it will become a sub-committee of the Parish Council.
Cllr Oram suggested a contact in Plaxtol who may be able to offer advice and it was suggested that we also contact ACRE and KALC. Mr Galbraith will retire from the Trust at the end of the year and there will need to be a handover to deal with insurance, bills and bank accounts etc. Bookings for the hall are reasonable with regular bookings for yoga and pilates. Farmers Market – Numbers are holding up and there doesn't seem to have been an adverse impact of the rise in prices.

Signed.....Dated.....

- 7.4. Climate Change** - Cllr Taylor has agreed to endorse our Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan. We have also asked Cllr Rayner to endorse the plan and he is currently checking with KCC that there is no conflict of interest.
- 7.5. Little Mead** - Nothing to report. The Clerk was asked to contact the owners of Little Mead to get an update on planting and the driveway.
- 7.6. Resurfacing path to the Church** – Cllr Tyler & The Clerk met with Bob Taylor to discuss the works proposed to the church approach and part of the footpath to the church. The Clerk explained that we are limited to how much funding that the PC can offer. Various quotes have been received and a preferred contractor identified. Bob is awaiting confirmation from all stakeholders including The Church, The Chaser and The Fairlawne Estate and work is expected to start this year. The entrance to the Chaser is being resurfaced and it therefore makes economic sense to do both at the same time. A working group of volunteers is helping to reinstate the verges of the path to the church.
- 7.7. Footpath MR392** – The Clerk has written to the Fairlawne Estate and PROW following the matter raised by a member of public at the October meeting. Awaiting response.
- 7.8. December party for Ukrainian and local children** – The party will be held at the village hall in December and the cost of the hire will be waived. There will be food and entertainment and it was agreed that we would contribute £30-£50. Plaxtol Community Bread Basket will also be making a contribution and there are a couple of other benefactors. The Clerk will also contact Shipbourne Parish Council as there will be some families from Plaxtol.
- 8. KALC** – Next KALC Meeting 15 December 2022 - via Zoom.
- 9. Communications** –* Circulated in advance
 Kent Country Parks Draft Strategy 2023-28 <https://letstalk.kent.gov.uk/countryparksstrategy>
 Deadline 12 December
 Kent's Plan Bee October 2022 Newsletter
 KALC News October*
 National Neighbourhood Watch Newsletter
 Tonbridge and Malling Ramblers December walks
 Kent Minerals and Waste Local Plan and Kent Mineral Sites Plan – Deadline 12th December*
 NALC 2022-2023 National Salary Award
 Local Election Material – May 2023
- 10. Chairs Action and Correspondence** – Cllr Tyler said that he would be attending the meeting of Chairs on Sunday and will report back at the next meeting.
- 11. Finance & Policy**
- 11.1 Payment of Accounts** – Accounts were presented for agreement to pay:
- | | |
|---|-----------|
| <u>Cheques signed by Cllr Tyler and Cllr Sheldrick</u> | |
| Parish Clerk August Salary & Expenses | £694.82 |
| HMRC – Clerks Tax & NI Contribution | £71.60 |
| Transfer to Unity Trust Bank | £5,000.00 |
| <u>Online - Cllrs Leach and Redman to authorise</u> | |
| KALC – Cllr Oram attendance Councillors Conference | £60.00 |
| Royal British Legion | £20.00 |
| Community Heartbeat Trust – Defib Lease | £151.20 |
- 11.2** Timesheet Report – October – circulated
- 11.3** Budget – The Clerk said that she would circulate a draft budget in advance of December's meeting.
- 12. Planning Matters**
- 12.1 Local Plan – Update** - Our Regulation 18 response was submitted online and had been agreed in advance.
- 12.2 Planning Applications Received** - None
- 12.3 Planning Applications Approved & Refused** – None
- 12.4 Planning Applications Withdrawn**
TM/22/01567/LB - The Roses, Dunks Green Road Shipbourne, Tonbridge, Kent, TN11 9RU. Listed Building Application: Demolition of rear extension built 2015. Proposed two storey rear extension, one and a half storey linked annexe, carport with new vehicle access and associated internal and external works.

Signed.....Dated.....

12. To review submission to Parish Newsletter – The deadline was on 12th November so new items will be included in the next newsletter. Include information about the elections in 2023 and Village Hall Trust.

13. Urgent Business that occurs and requires attention before the next meeting - Cllr Leach reported that him and Cllr Bate had had a meeting with South East New Energy about the renewable energy scheme and the geophysical survey of the parish has now been carried out. The next stage is to identify suitable locations in the parish for solar panels. They are also looking for smaller community wind farms which would make the village sustainable. Cllr Bate has put the agency in touch with Kent AONB to check on any planning constraints.

Cllr Oram reported that Lady Vane will be managed by a new housing trust next year, it will operate on a similar basis to the current trust.

14. Date of next meeting – Monday 19th December 2022 – Shipbourne Village Hall at 7.00pm

The meeting closed at 8.30pm

Signed.....Dated.....