



## MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL PARISH MEETING Monday 9 May 2022, 6.30 pm SHIPBOURNE VILLAGE HALL

**Present: Cllr Tyler (Chairman), Cllr Redman (Vice Chair) Cllr Bate, Cllr Dagger, Cllr Leach, Cllr Oram, Cllr Sheldrick, County Cllr Rayner, The Parish Clerk, Piers Montague - Conservative Candidate for Bourne Ward, Viv Packer and 1 member of the public.**

The Chairman welcomed everybody to the first annual meeting in 3 years since the pandemic.

- Apologies –Borough Cllrs Taylor, Shaw and Palmer
- To approve and sign the Minutes of the Annual Parish Meeting held 13 May 2019 – The Minutes were approved and signed as a true record.
- Councillor Piers Montague introduced himself as the Conservative candidate for the new Bourne Ward. Selection will happen in June 2022, and he hopes to win the Ward. He is currently visiting all Parishes in the Ward.

Reports from:

- **Viv Packer** – Outlined the arrangements for the Platinum Jubilee weekend. There has been a lack of response from residents so this weekend residents will be leafleted door to door so that the committee can get an idea of numbers attending.  
On Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup>, there will be a Platinum Jubilee Farmer’s market in the morning and games and a BBQ at the Cricket Club from 4pm. The Beacon will be lit at 9.45pm and Gordon Wright will do the Proclamation. On Sunday there will be an open-air church service followed by tree planting and refreshments. There will be a bring your own picnic at 1pm outside the Village Hall, and The Parish Clerk has applied for a road closure notice. There will also be competitions for the best dressed house and best decorated crown.  
A budget of around £600 will be required and Viv asked the Parish Council whether they would be able to provide funding. The Clerk explained that we would be unable to provide a loan or underwrite the costs, however we would be able to finance the event and any profits could be donated to the village hall. A decision will be made at the Parish Council meeting following this meeting.  
The school will be invited however it will be during half term.  
Thanks was given to Viv Packer for her efforts.
- **Chairman** - Cllr Tyler gave a report of the activities of the Parish Council over the last 3 years. (Please see below). Cllr Tyler gave thanks to Councillors for all their work in the community and to the Parish Clerk.
- **Responsible Financial Officer** – The Clerk gave a brief report of the finances – our annual running costs are around £12,500, Our precept hasn’t been increased this year due to the rising cost of living. We are currently reserving funds for repairs to the village hall. We ended the year with £22,900 in the account.
- **Kent County Council - Report from County Councillor Rayner** – Cllr Rayner reported that there was a new household waste and recycling centre (HWRC) at Allington, just off the 2020 roundabout. The HWRC runs of enviro fuel including solar panels and electricity generated by the incinerator next door. Cllr Rayner reported that he had been appointed Chair of the T&M Joint Transportation Board, he replaced Piers Montague who is now the Vice Chair.  
Cllr Rayner reported that indications from the recent bus consultation were not good in terms of retaining bus services. Unfortunately footfall has significantly reduced by a third and coupled with the rising cost of fuel, the viability of services has been reduced. A report will be coming to Committee next week.  
KCC continues to struggle to cope with the increasing number of unaccompanied child migrants crossing the channel and month on month, numbers are up by 1/3<sup>rd</sup>. Some of the children are now

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placed in care in other counties. The Government proposal to send migrants to Rwanda has hit significant legal challenges therefore the situation is unlikely to improve.

There is currently a budget deficit of £60-£70 million at KCC and the impact of rising inflation may mean that a second budget may be necessary in the autumn.

The Government is looking at alternative arrangements for local authorities and a white paper is due imminently.

Cllr Oram asked about the proposed MOTO site at Wrotham Heath. Cllr Rayner said that the application had been heavily defended by planning professionals appointed by neighbouring parishes and TMBC had refused the application. It is unlikely to go to appeal as the applicant had failed to provide mitigation for the impact on the motorway junctions and local roads and PINS would not look favourable on this. The option on the land has now expired so it is unlikely that there will be a further application.

Cllr Rayner left the meeting at 7.20pm.

- **Questions to Parish Councillors –**

A question was raised about making traffic on Upper Green Road one way to address the issues of safety on the brow of the hill. Cllr Tyler said that it would be difficult to get agreement for such a traffic order judging by recent advice from Cllr Rayner however we are due to have a meeting with Highways on 23<sup>rd</sup> May and bring it up then.

The meeting closed at 7.25pm

## **Chairmans Report**

Summary of the key issues that the Parish council have been involved with since 2019.

I want to thank the members of the council for their hard work over the year.

SPC recommended Libby Cohen for a KALC award for services to the local community, this will be presented at a community event which will be confirmed.

### **Covid pandemic**

- In April 2020 SPC set up a help line to help with shopping, medicine collection, volunteering etc during lockdown.
- Assisted the farmers market with volunteers, applying for a grant for software to set up an online ordering service to enable the market to carry on trading.
- Continued monthly Parish meetings via Zoom during the pandemic and returned to face to face meetings in autumn 2021.

### **Planning**

- Local Plan - Cllr Bate drafted a comprehensive statement on behalf of Shipbourne PC for the TMBC Local Plan Examination hearing sessions. The Local Plan was refused on grounds of Duty to Co-operate. The process has started again.
- New call for sites – SPC did not put any sites forward and will await the outcome of the call for sites before making a response.
- We continue to respond to planning applications in the village and draw attention of planners to the Shipbourne Design Statement and raise issues of sustainability.

### **Highways Improvement Plan**

- Installation of the gateway entry signs to the village to encourage slower speeds with Parish funding and grant funding from Cllr Rayner.
- White line and double yellow line refresh in 2022
- Continued frustration over lack of enforcement of parking on double yellow lines in Upper Green Road.

### **Village Hall**

- Refurbishment to the rear lobby and toilets with grant funding from Cllr Rayner in 2020
- Plans to replace the windows and reserve funds to maintain the fabric of the building

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**Boundary Review**

- In 2021, we responded to the recent Government Consultation to review the electoral arrangements for Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council to be implemented at the local elections in **2023**. SPC put together a comprehensive response working together with our neighbouring Parishes to remain with in the Long Mill Ward with Borough Green, Plaxtol and Platt. The final recommendations did not take our wishes into account and we will be part of the newly formed Bourne Ward with Plaxtol and Hadlow.

**Bus Consultation**

- Recently responded to bus consultation to retain the 222 service through the village.

**Climate Change**

- Have carried out a carbon footprint calculation for the Parish
- Cllr Bate put together a papers of suggested next steps

**Finances**

- YE balance of £22,992
- Running Costs of approx. £12,500
- Decision not to raise the precept which will be £12,175 for 2022/3

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